# THE STORY OF FIFTY YEARS OF CROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

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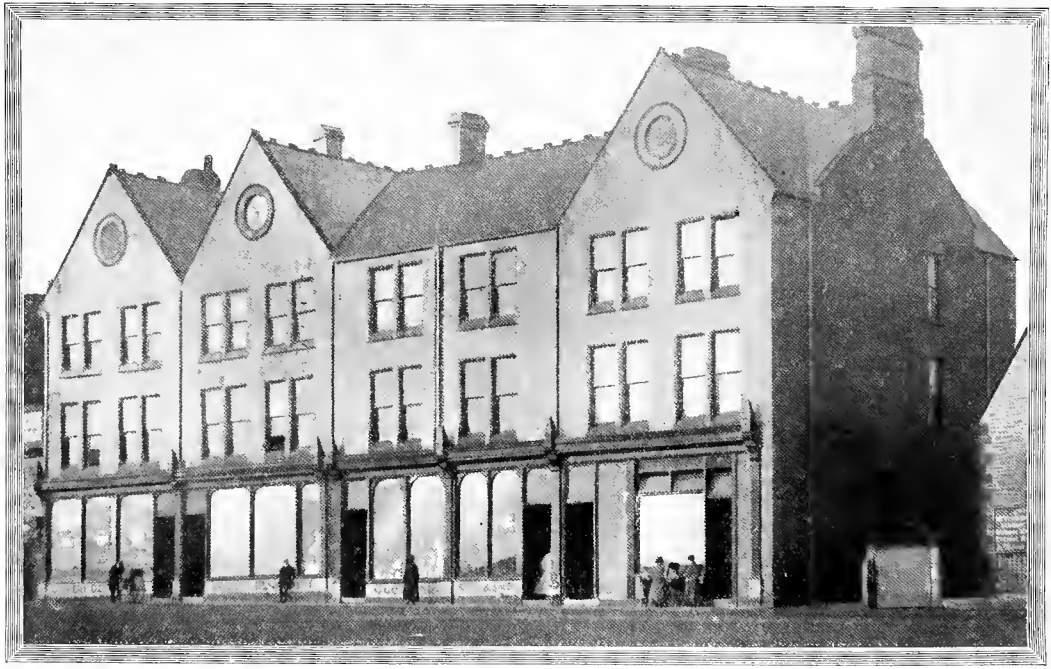
# CO-OPERATION IN CROOK AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

1865—1915.



*Frontispiece.* CENTRAL PREMISES, CROOK.

1865—1915.

# HISTORY

OF THE

## CROOK AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

## Co-operative Corn Mill, Flour & Provision Society

Limited

AND A SHORT

# HISTORY

OF THE

## TOWN AND DISTRICT OF CROOK.

*By EDWARD LLOYD.*

PELAW-ON-TYNE:
Co-operative Wholesale Society's Printing Works.

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# PREFACE.

IN their perusal of this book, which I have had the honour of compiling, I ask the critics to be gentle in their criticism. The preparation of the whole work has been a heavy task, due largely to the short time at my disposal in which to collect information and search records in order to have as complete and accurate a history as could reasonably be expected. I have read some 70,000 minutes; had endless interviews, here, there, and everywhere; collected photographs from this one and that one; and then have endeavoured to present the story of our Society's career in a simple style, and in a fairly exhaustive manner.

With regard to the short history of the town and district, this is included in the hope that additional value and interest may be given, if possible, to the Society's Jubilee Souvenir.

In the whole of the book I have ever kept the personal element in sight. It is a record of persons and not of sticks and stones.

To the many who have so kindly assisted with valuable help and information I extend my sincere thanks.

In conclusion, I pray that my readers may read it with the same enjoyment as has been mine in the writing of the facts herewith presented.

E. L.

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CROOK AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

Co-operative

Corn Mill, Flour and Provision Society

LIMITED.

# HISTORY OF CROOK AND DISTRICT.

BEFORE proceeding with our account of the doings of the Co-operative Society, we present to our readers a short history of the town of Crook and district.

Writing up a history of our immediate locality is a hard task, due to a variety of reasons, which include the peculiar position of the town—or village, as it formerly was—occupied, inasmuch as it had a connection with both the ancient parishes of Brancepeth and St. Andrew's, Bishop Auckland. With each of these it was, to some considerable extent, closely interwoven, and this has militated somewhat against a running sequence of records being procurable.

The fact that certain valuable records, though still in existence, are not obtainable, is also a big drawback to the would-be historian's efforts. The birth, or at least the naming of the place, is lost in an antiquity which it is safe to assert will never be probed.

We are not supposed to be living in a town possessed of a long and ancient record, but all around we find abundance of evidence that not only was the district known to the Romans, but it was also more or less a resting valley for the Britons of 2,000 years ago. We can judge of this latter being the case when we visit Helm Park, near Tow Law, and see the remains of earthworks, known as the Scots' Dyke, or Catrail. "This dyke is a huge piece of prehistoric engineering, and consisted originally of a ditch, or trench, from three to five yards wide, formed by the throwing-out of soil on the east side to a height above the trench bottom of, in some cases, six or eight feet. The length of this earthwork through the county touches about thirty miles; and from its supposed termination near Galashiels, in Selkirk, to the great entrenchments of Maiden Castle, near Reeth, in Swaledale, it is over one hundred and twenty miles long. It is, perhaps, permissible to suggest that, as so long a line could never, by any means then or now available, be defended, a territorial boundary cut somewhat deeply for the sake of permanence, might well, in the course of centuries, and because it formed a clear path through the dense woods and undergrowth, have become a regular highway."

This information has been gleaned from Mr. J. E. Hodgson's admirable book, *Durham.*

The whole district at that period was practically one vast forest, where various kinds of wild animals, including wild boar and wolf, red and fallow deer, badgers, otters, foumarts, stoats, weasels, etc., roamed of their own sweet will, and were seldom disturbed by the hunter. What is now our Market Place, from time immemorial was a resting-place for sheep, but no direct evidence of the kind of people who populated the place has ever been found. Of the Roman occupation of the district there is everywhere abundant proof, though none exists in the town itself.

On the west side of the town, at High Woodifield Farm, there was probably a Roman building on the site where

the farm now stands. About the year 1180, this belonged to the Amundeville family of Woctona, or Wotton, or Witton. In the *Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis* it is mentioned as Wodyfeld, Wodynfeld, and Wudingfeledd. Robert de Amundevyle gave it to the Prior and Convent of Durham, the deed being witnessed by Archidicano Dunelmi et Carleslensi, Domino Gilleberto Hannsard, Jordano Escoulcennd, Roberto de Waterville, Rogero Dandri, Petro Harpin, and many others. In 1244 the Abbot and Convent of Blanchland held the rights from the Prior of Durham in soccage of one toft and eleven acres of land, of which seven acres join this croft, and seventeen acres join the same assart ; and they yield thence per year 13s. 4d. The monks of Blanchland were Premonstratensians, or Norbertines, a severely ascetic religious order founded in 1120 at Prémontré, in France. There is still a community of these monks in Essex. In England they have always been mostly described as " The White Canons," owing to their attire, which consists of a white robe. The Woodifield place would be in the nature of a tithe barn, though we can rightly surmise it was much used by the monks for services. In fact—judging from the old building—they must also have lived there, for one of the rooms has every evidence of having formerly been a chapel. There was also a belfry, and a cross on the east side. The latter was still to be seen up to about 1840. The east windows are lancet laced, of the Norman square type. Although many alterations have recently been made, it is still worthy of a visit from those interested in ancient history. It is now the property of Mrs. Stobart, Harperly Hall.

It is, however, on the east where the Romans were very prominent. Stonechester Farm lies just over Dovefold, or Dowfold Hill ; and from this farm it is interesting to know that a tunnel runs underground, right through the hill to what we know as " Hole-in-the-Wall " Farm. Probably this work is of Roman origin, and may have been a great help to them in enabling a

fine view of the valley to be secured without running any risk of being seen by any enemy.

Jumping over a space of several centuries, only pausing to note that no mention of Crook is to be found in the famous *Boldon Book*, compiled in 1183, we reach the time of Bishop Hatfield's Survey, which was made between 1377 and 1380. This informs us that " John Barker, of Wodingfield, held the manor of Wodingfield, containing forty acres, and rendering twenty shillings." This Wodingfield is the High Woodifield previously mentioned, and at other times was referred to as Wodynfeld and Wodyfal. The latter name we find in the inquisition post mortem (inquiry after death) taken at Durham, 19th November, 1425, before William de Menevyll, High Sheriff, in which it is stated that " Ralph Neville, first Earl of Westmoreland, had died, seised (or possessed) of (amongst other lands, etc.) twenty messuages and four hundred acres of land, forty acres of meadow, and twenty thousand acres of moor land and pasture, with forest of Brauncepath, with Cruyk and one watermill there, of the total value of £12 ;
of two messuages, and one hundred acres of land, with a mine of coal in Wodyfal, of the total value of forty shillings ;
of the manor and vill of Stanley and Billyraw, of the total value of forty shillings ;
of the manor of Wollyhall (Wooley Hall), of the value of forty shillings."

A paragraph such as the foregoing will doubtless be of great interest to local miners, who again and again have wondered as to when coal mining first commenced in the district. The mine at Woodifield would not be worked as such as would constitute it to be called a " pit." Rather was it an outburst of coal, which we know does or has existed there, which would be drawn on purely for the requirements of the houses then existing near High Woodifield, or Cold Knott. It can, however, safely be assumed that some sort of a colliery was in

existence in the year 1600, for, on an old deed of that date touching certain lands, that particular part of the district is shown on the plan, and marked "Cole pitts."

Referring again to the inquisition, we note the name of Cruyk. This is the first mention we find of Crook in the records. It is named in other periods as Croke, Croyke, and Crooke. How the town came to be so named is not known. Krokr (Icelandic), Krok (Swedish), Cruc (Anglo-Saxon), Crwg (Welsh), and Krooke (Danish), all mean "crooked"; and the suggestion has been made that "Crook is the crook or bend in the river." This derivation is, however, hardly feasible, especially in view of the fact that we have no river within a reasonable radius. The Bitchburn can only be termed a brook or beck. More likely it is that the town derived its name from a personal name, and such a name as Crok was used in 1183, for near by us, in Wolsingham, one Walter Crok held six acres of land. Mention is also made in 1377 of Petri de Croke. The meaning, however, is very obscure, and we must leave it to future possibilities.

PARISH CHURCH, HOWDEN-LE-WEAR.

With regard to the Bitchburn Beck, the name is of great antiquity, as away back to the time of Edward I. (A.D. 1272 to 1307) there was resident hereabouts one

Hugone de Bycheborne. By some etymologists, " Bitchburn " is derived from " Beechburn," and by others from " Birchburn," from the trees which, it is said, formerly grew on its banks. We suggest it as more probable that beeches were common trees in these parts seven hundred years ago. There are, however, other possibilities of the derivation.

Continuing our way through the records, we find the following are the most important references :—

24th December, 1484.—Inquisition post mortem of Ralph, second Earl of Westmoreland, taken at Durham. " Land with forest at Brauncepath with Crook ; land and coalmines in Wodyfield ; manor and vill of Stanley and Billerawe ; manor of Wolleyhall "; to his nephew, Ralph Lord Neville, aged twenty-four, his heir.

16th June, 1498.—Inquisition post mortem of Ralph, third Earl of Westmoreland, taken at Durham. " A tenement called Croke (a watermill in Brancepeth) ; land, tenements, and coalmines in Wodyfield ; manors of Stanley, Billirowe, and Willeyhall, and lands and tenements there "; to his grandson, Ralph Neville, aged sixteen, his heir.

27th June, 1549.—Inquisition ad inquirendum of Ralph, Earl of Westmoreland : " A tenement called Croyke ; manors of Stanley, Billerawe, and Willehaulle, and lands and tenements there ; land, tenements, and coalmines in Woddey feyld "; his son Henry, aged twenty-four, his heir.

28th August, 1564.—Inquisition taken at Durham of Henry, Earl of Westmoreland : " Lands, tenements, and coalmines in Woddyfield ; manor and vill of Crooke ; manor and vill of Stanley, Byllerawe, and Billyhall "; his son Charles, aged twenty-one, his heir.

9th March, 1620.—Durham. Will of Charles Wrenn : " Lands in Billiehall and Billie Rawe, to his eldest son, Linleius, and his heirs male, with remainder to his other sons Charles and Henry, and remainder over to his own right heirs."

15th August, 1621.—Inquisition post mortem of Charles Wrenn, taken at Durham: "Land called Woodyfeild in Billie Rawe; land and tenements of Billiehall, Billie Rawe, and Crooke, in the parish of Brancepeth, part of the forfeited possessions of Charles, Earl of Westmoreland, held of the Prince of Wales"; his son, Linleius Wrenn, aged twenty, his heir.

From the earliest times Crook and Billy Row have always been connected with each other for parochial purposes; in fact, Billy Row, up to almost the middle of the last century, was by far the most important of the two places, and the thoroughfare starting near the "King's Head," in Hope Street, was, up to 1860, known legally as "Billy Row Lane"; whilst, locally, this particular part of our town was called "Black Lonning."

Billy Row has undergone many changes so far as its peculiar name goes—a name which, if we remember rightly, once caused much laughter in the House of Commons, on an occasion when it was used in the recital of an Act relating to Crook and Billy Row. It is, undoubtedly, derived from "Will-o'-the-Raw," who lived in the fourteenth century. By several conveyances in that period, it appears that Cornsay, under the distinction of Cornsey Row, gave a local name to its possessor, among whom we find Will-o'-the-Raw and Dionesia-o'-the-Raw. They held a moiety of the manor of Cornsey by homage and fealty, and the twentieth part of a knight's fee, paying two shillings yearly at the Bishop's Exchequer. The estate descended to Agnes, a sister to Will-o'-the-Raw, and this lady married John Emerson, of Stanley. Will-o'-the-Raw later became Bill-o'-the-Raw, then Billie Raw, and by other changes eventually arrived at its present name of Billy Row.

Billy Hall was also a place of no small importance, as, on the occasion of Flowers' Visitation (Heraldic), taken at Bishop Auckland, on Friday, 29th of July, 1575, mention is made of Anthony Wrenn, Billyhall.

In 1569 an annual pension of forty shillings was paid to the Rector of the Church of the South Bailey, Durham (St. Mary-the-Less), by ancient custom, out of the rents of the lands of Crook and Billyraw, formerly part of the possessions of Charles, Earl of Westmoreland, attainted of treason.

In the rebellion of 1569, which was an attempt to re-establish the Catholic religion, nine persons joined from Elmyden Rawe (Helmington Row), and two were executed.

In the reign of King James I. (1603–1625), the Wrenns became proprietors of much land in the Newton Cap district; and, following the downfall of Ralph, Earl of Westmoreland, a portion of his estates, including Binchester, Willington, Crook, and Billy Row, were mortgaged by Charles I. (1625–1649) to the Goldsmiths' Company, London, from whom the four townships already named, with all their rights and royalties, were purchased by Mr. Wrenn, for the sum of £2,000 !

Durham County was visited in 1615 by Sir Richard St. George, when one hundred and thirty-nine families registered their pedigrees, including William Coigniers, Wooley; William Trotter, Helmedon; and Francis Greene, Bichborne.

Judging from a dated stone in the building, Old White Lea Farm was built in the year 1661. About six years ago, whilst inside alterations to the house were being carried out, the workmen discovered a very neat secret chamber, adjacent to the main chimney, the existence of which had never been suspected.

Red House Farm is also very old, and it is interesting to note that a fore-elder of Mr. Wm. Pallister, J.P., "The Laurels," held the ownership of it two hundred years ago. The farm changed hands, and now again, after a lapse of two centuries, the property has come into the possession of relatives of Mr. Pallister.

In 1709 much of the land in Foundry Fields district was owned by John Well and Richard Wailes, and, afterwards, Robert Spearman became the owner.

About the year 1700 a traveller, journeying from Wolsingham to Durham, lost his way in a storm whilst crossing the fell behind Stanley Church, and was afterwards found dead.

On July 11th, 1773, on the Billy Row common green, William Dickinson, a boy aged fifteen, whilst playing at long bowl, was struck on the head by the ball and killed.

For the maintenance of Russell's Almshouses and Schools at Cornsay, an indenture, dated October 22nd, 1811, was made, in which Wm. Russell, Esq., Brancepeth Castle, granted to certain trustees the house and farm called "Billy Hall," containing 259 acres 2 roods, for a term of 10,000 years.

Roddymoor is also a place which has suffered a considerable change of name, for, originally, its title was the distinctive one of "Rhodamore Gate." Wheatbottom is in some records referred to as Whitebottom; whilst we have also seen in a deed the description, "Wheatbottom or Houndsletch."

Perhaps one of the most incorrectly named of our local parts is that of Job's Hill; for, in 1632, John Laxe, yeoman, Westerton, became the owner for a term of ninety-nine years, of a tenement or farm in Helmelandraw, alias Helmedenraw, called Jope's Hill. The witnesses to this deed were Nicholas Bealke, John Dontgrearte, William Mitchell, Cuthbert Atkinson, Stephen Cockey, Anthony Jackson, and Joseph Laxe. The owners then were Launcelotte Holtby and J. Cholmely. Subsequently John Laxe, in 1644, made a grant in fee to John Greenwell, a name which has always ranked more or less with the town and district. The witnesses to the deed were Anthony Walton, Thomas Richardson, and George Iley. Descendants of John Greenwell are still resident in the town; whilst John Laxe was, in all probability, a fore-elder of the Lax family, whose connections and interests—at any rate for the past century—have been with the town. George Lax was a shoemaker in 1827, and resided in Military

Row, at that time called "Ratten Row." Mr. George Lax, painter, Gladstone Street, was born in that row, as also was Mrs. Addison, St. Mary's Avenue, who died in the course of the present year.

We have seen that the first mention of Crook was in 1425, in connection with a water-mill. This was situated near the "Balaclava" Inn, and stood the test of time for over four hundred years. The place where the mill-race ran can still be seen, and many of our older townspeople have recollections of seeing the mill working some sixty odd years ago.

From about the year 1600, the township generally was owned by the Wrenn family, who resided at Binchester Hall. By an Act of Parliament in 1764, in the fourth year of George III., the common of Crook and Billy Row, containing 1,500 acres, was divided. One-sixteenth part was reserved to Farrer Wrenn, as compensation for right of soil, etc. His right to royalties was also respected, but satisfaction was to be awarded for damages. Provision was also made for saving to Wm. Belasye his right as Lord of the Manor of Brancepeth. The division of the common resulted in the following holding the land, which was mostly situate in a semi-circle, working from the Willington, or Helmington Row road, round by Billy Hall Farm, White Lea. West Roddymoor, to the Woodifield Road :—Farrer Wrenn, Esq.; William Campbell, Esq.; Edward Stewart, Esq.; William Atkinson, Esq.; Richard Taylor, Esq.; William Cornforth, Esq.; Thomas Hodgson, Esq.; Matthew Ornsby, Esq.; Thomas Pickering, Esq.; William Hodgson, Esq.; Mrs. Marley; William Spearmint, Esq.; John Croudace, Esq.; Matthias Ovington, Esq.; Timothy Harland, Esq.; Ann Foster; John Greenwell, Esq.; H. Storey, Esq.; William Stobbs, Esq.: and The Right Hon. the Dowager Countess and the Earl of Strathmore.

Afterwards the principal part of the land in the township became, by successive purchases, vested in the

Russells, of Brancepeth ; R. D. Shafto, Esq., M.P., Whitworth ; George H. Wilkinson, Esq., and Ralph Walters, Esq. In the course of the last half-century, the ownership has again much changed ; Messrs. Pease and Partners Limited owning a considerable portion.

White Lee and Roddymoor Pits were formerly the property of Ralph Walters, Esq.

About the year 1800, High Woodifield Colliery belonged to Mrs. Pearson. It was ten fathoms deep, and employed six men. The output of coals was about 2,200 chaldrons, or about 2,800 tons annually. Bitchburn Colliery, at the same time, belonged to the Bishop of Durham, and was fifteen fathoms deep. It employed six men, and the output was 2,600 chaldrons, or about 3,315 tons per annum.

Coming to the year 1801, we can imagine that the township was not over-run with a teeming populace. It has been said that in that year there was one inn, one blacksmith's shop, and one farm ; but this is obviously incorrect so far as the farms went, for there would then be one behind the present Church Institute, another where the " Royal " Hotel now stands, and others in North Terrace, Hope Street, and Commercial Street ; all of which places, of course, had not then been so named.

The population in 1801 numbered 193 persons. There were 36 houses, occupied by 40 families, and 30 of the families were chiefly employed in agriculture. In 1811 there were 176 persons ; but by 1821 this number was increased to 228, made up of 125 males and 103 females. In 1831 there was again a drop to 200, and then a rush commenced, for, by 1841, there was a population of 538. The next ten years saw Crook making history rapidly ; and by 1851 the number of inhabitants was 3,946, of which 2,211 were males and 1,735 females. The scarcity of the latter was accounted for by the fact that the demand for houses could not be met, and miners had to take lodgings. In 1841 there were 88 inhabited houses, 19 uninhabited,

and 8 building. In 1851 there were 706 inhabited houses, 16 uninhabited, and 1 building. The great increase of population was responsible for a re-arrangement of the parish's ancient connection with Brancepeth ; and, on January 13th, 1845, Crook and Billy Row were made a parochial chapelry, with an area of 4,008 acres.

Referring back to 1827, we note that the Wolsingham and Durham post carriers passed through Crook. Persons anxious to enjoy the luxury of receiving or posting a letter had to walk to the toll house at the Harperly four road ends.

The chief residents in the parish were :—

JOHN EMERSON, blacksmith, Crook.
ELIZABETH FAWCETT, corn miller, Crook.
GEORGE HODGSON, tailor, Crook.
GEORGE LINTON, blacksmith, farrier, and licensed victualler, " Horse Shoe " Inn, Crook.
JOHN LINTON, shopkeeper and victualler, " Bay Horse," Crook.
WILLIAM SHERRATON, schoolmaster, Crook.
MARK SPENCE, joiner and cartwright, Crook.
JOHN WILSON, joiner, Crook.
JOSEPH GARDINER, farmer, Crook.
FARRAR MORSON, farmer, Crook.
JOHN ALDERSON, farmer, White Lee.
WILLIAM ALDERSON, farmer, Billy Row.
MARY BALSH, Watergate Farm.
JOHN FORSTER, farmer, Stanley.
JOSEPH HALL, farmer, Mown Meadows.
WILLIAM HALL, farmer, Mown Meadows.
JAMES NATTRASS, farmer, Billy Row.
ROBERT PROUD, farmer, North Side.
WILLIAM RICHARDSON, farmer, Crook.
EDWARD TAYLOR, farmer, Sunniside.
THOMAS THOMPSON, farmer, Billy Hall.
JOHN THOMPSON, farmer, Billy Row.
WILLIAM VASEY, farmer, Billy Row.
JOHN WELSH, farmer, Dicken House.

WM. DAWSON, cartwright and joiner, Hole-in-the-Wall.
JOHN HARRISON, yeoman, Job's Hill.
JOSEPH KIRKLEY, shoemaker, Crook.
GEORGE LAX, shoemaker, Crook.
JOHN COATES, farmer, Helmington Row.
JOHN FRENCH, farmer, Helmington Row.
WM. DOWELL, farmer, Helmington Row.
THOS. LINDSAY, farmer, Helmington Row.
ANTHONY WATT, farmer, Woodifield.

In 1837 the Overseers were :—Farrar Morson and Thomas Thompson ; and the occupiers were :—Rector of Brancepeth, Christopher Wilkinson, Thomas Thompson, James Nattrass, Thomas Hall, Jonathan Hall, John Angus, Farrar Morson, John Linton, John Richardson, Wm. Alderson, John Wilson, John Willans, E. Taylor, T. Allanson, Rob. Proud, John Alderson, John Thompson, Wm Wailes, Ralph Hutchinson, Mary Balsh, Thomas Walker, Thos. Wilkinson, T. Richardson, sen., Wm. Allanson, G. Chapman, G. Linton, Jno. Emerson, Wm. Lax, George Craggs, and Wm. Brown.

In 1839 there were fifteen thatched houses in the village of Crook. Of the local collieries, the West Emma Pit was won in 1846, and the West Lucy and the West Edward Pits in 1849. Over five hundred coke ovens were quickly in operation. The coal and coke were sent by the line then known as the Stockton and Darlington Railway, which, at Crook, had four lines of rails. Firebricks were made, also various kinds of pipes. During a dispute between the owners and the workmen, in November, 1853, the score prices offered for hewing were fixed by the employers at eight shillings per score at Peases West, ten shillings first price at Adelaide, and twelve shillings at South Durham.

* " Whilst touching on these collieries, it may interest the many miners who are resident in the district to peruse

* From " Dipton," by J. W. Fawcett, Esq., Satley.

the following, from a copy of an old pay sheet belonging to the "Moor Machine Pit, or Pontop Pike Colliery." It covered the fortnight between the 21st November and 4th December, 1786, and may be taken as a sample of the prices which at that period prevailed in the county :

"Pit 'hung on' on Wednesday, 21st November, and was idle on Saturday, 24th November, and again on Tuesday, 27th November, and (of course) on Sundays, 25th November and 2nd December.

"Total days worked, 10. Days' work for horses —first week, 56 ; second week, 84.

"Total weight of coals drawn—first week, 86 scores 3 corves ; second week, 120 scores 7 corves. Total—207 scores for 10 days.

"Total number of hewers employed—30.

| "HEWING ACCOUNT. | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| "Hewing 42 scores, at 1s. 10d. per score. | 3 | 17 | 0 |
| "Hewing 165 scores, at 2s. per score..... | 16 | 10 | 0 |
| "Making 41½ yards of headings, at 8d. each ..... | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| "Making 15 yards of narrow work, at 2d. each ..... | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| "Hewing 24 scores and 10 corves of small coal, at 2s. 6d. a score ..... | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| "Turning 7 bords at 9d. ..... | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| "Consideration for strong coals and troubles ..... | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| "Total for hewing ..... | £25 | 8 | 10" |

Dividing the hewing bill amongst thirty hewers makes an average of 17s. 5d. per man. There were sixteen drivers, and their bill amounted to £6 3s. 0d. They were paid 10d. per day. When a hewer was employed to drive, he was paid 1s. 2d. per day. The overman was

paid by piecework, at 5¼d. per score. As he accounted for 297 scores, his bill for the 10 days amounted to £4 10s. 6¾d.

| Amongst other payments were :— | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| " For sledding 20 scores, at 1¾d. per score, and 3s. odds ..... | 1 | 13 | 2¼ |
| " Driving 150 yards of level, at 1½d. per yard ..... | 0 | 18 | 9 |
| " Leaden watter to the South-east..... | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| " Corving 207 scores, at 5½d. per score .. | 4 | 14 | 10½ |
| " Waling and sholing (screening and shovelling), 30 days at 10d. ..... | 1 | 5 | 0" |

The following was the " waling and sholing " account at the Pontop Pike Colliery for the pay following the above, namely, that from 8th December to 22nd December, 1786. Both boys and girls were employed at the work :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| " Matthew Anderson, 12 days at 10d. .. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| " Isabella Oswell, 11 days at 6d. ..... | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| " Ann Robinson, 4 days at 4d. ..... | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| " At the East Pit :— | | | |
| " Sarah Irwin, 8 days at 6d. ..... | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| " Mary Naisby, 4 days at 6d. ..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| " Roger Oxley, 9 days at 10d..... | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| " Ann Robinson, 3 days at 4d. ..... | 0 | 1 | 0" |

It will be interesting to compare these prices of 1786 with those of the present year, 1915—one hundred and twenty-nine years later.

The conditions of coal-mining over a century ago were altogether different from what they are now. All the miners were bound from year to year, and the binding period generally existed for a twelve months—from the 18th of each October. These conditions existed until the year 1809, when the colliery owners wished to change

it to the 21st of January. On their trying to enforce it, in the year named (1809), a long strike ensued, which ended in a compromise; and the binding period commenced on the 5th day of April, 1810, and so continued —usually from the Saturday nearest the 21st of March— until its extinction in 1872.

It is to the credit of the County of Durham that, although girls were employed "at bank," as has been shown, on no occasion were females employed underground; so the Act of Parliament which prohibited their employment in other parts of the kingdom after the 1st of March, 1843, had not to apply to Durham. 1843, it may be noted, was the year in which Shetland ponies were first introduced to take the place of the putter lads in the mines." We have heard old miners speak of the terrible hardships which they had to endure about sixty years ago, but these were mild compared to the outrageous conditions of one hundred and twenty years ago; more especially amongst the boys. A boy at that period went to work at two o'clock on Monday morning, and did not again reach his home till between eight and ten o'clock at night, entirely exhausted. He would again repair to work next morning at the same hour, half asleep, and sometimes half naked. This continued through the week. He would not see much daylight from Sunday till the next Sunday arrived.

The older pitmen had many peculiar characteristics. Their dresses were of velveteen, with large and shining metal buttons. They delighted in gaudy colours, and their "best" waistcoats, called by them posey-jackets, were frequently of very curious patterns, displaying flowers of various hues. Their stockings were blue, purple, pink, or mixed colours. Many had their hair very long, which, on week days, was either tied in a queue, or rolled up in curls; but when dressed in their "best," it was commonly spread over their shoulders. Some of them—probably the "knuts"—wore two or three narrow ribbons round their hats, placed at equal

distances, in which it was customary to insert one or more bunches of primroses or other flowers.

Mr. Mark Simpson, the High Cold Knott veteran, who is now ninety-one years old, and has known Crook all his life, says that, about seventy years ago, when he worked at the Cold Knott Colliery, it took a good man, working thirteen or fourteen hours a day, to make 3s. 6d. or 4s. a day. The men started at three o'clock in the morning and worked till tea-time. The coals were fairly given away. A ton could be bought for 1s. 6d.; whilst for 1s. 9d. the coal leader would fill the cart with small coal, and then pack up the sides and top "wi' roundies."

Mr. Simpson, when he was thirteen years old, worked at the old Crook Mill. He had to tour the district on a donkey, delivering "bakings" to the various small millers round about. At that time there were eighteen or twenty houses. There were five in Ratten Row, an old brick house on coming into Wheatbottom, and a little red-tiled one beside it. There were no more till the "Horse Shoe" was reached.

Behind where the Church Institute now stands, was Mr. Farrar Morson's black thatched house—"Moat Farm"; then there was the old schoolhouse—being all that was on that side. In Commercial Street, there was a thatched house, and a red-tiled one beside it, where Old Buckram used to live. Then there was John Emerson's, the blacksmith, and John Linton's public house, with another house near by. A little further was another black thatched house, where John Thompson lived; and then the Mill House, where Mr. Simpson himself resided. Where now is Hope Street was a country lane, and a very narrow one too, with hardly sufficient room for a cart to get along, and with overhanging branches from either side. He also remembers the races which were held on Dovefold Hill, which every

person in the district attended. Part of a song about the races, which was commonly sung, ran :—

"Ha'e ye been up at Dovefold Hill ?
Did ye see Franky Horner, man ?
As proud a tyke as ever bet a gill,
As ever look'd out at morn, man.
He had a wee bit bonny nag,
Could jump and skip like any stag ;
But Franky, man, the' mun'na brag,
A three-mile heat will mak' him lag,
And put him past his corn, man.
Then all the Hunwick rebels came up,
And a champion band they were, man ;
Buckram cussed and swore to their face,
Their heart to Billy Row, man."

The "postman" was a middle-aged lady, of the name of Kate Hodgson. She lived at Wolsingham, and passed through Crook on her way to Durham every day for the letters, walking back with them in the evening. This "little stroll," of somewhere near thirty-four miles, she kept up daily for several years. Weddings were great occasions, and the bride and bridegroom usually rode to church on ponies, and afterwards the guests had a donkey race for a white ribbon. Evidently they were of the "good old times," but we are still pondering over that "thirty-four mile stroll."

Hope Street, the town's main thoroughfare, was in all probability named through the Hope family, the descendants of which are still resident in the town. Previously it had been known as the "Black Lonning," and where is now the "King's Head" was then a black and slimy pool. Where the "Royal" Hotel now stands, was a farm known as "Morgan's Farm." It is, perhaps, not generally known that the part of the street running towards Commercial Street is to this day named Morgan Street.

In the *London Gazette*, April 14th, 1843, the following interesting local license occurs :—

> "The Queen has been pleased to grant unto Edward Taylor, of Crook, in the County Palatine of Durham, her royal license and authority, that he

and his issue may, in compliance with a clause contained in the last will and testament of Dame Jane Peat, late of Bishop Wearmouth, in the said County of Durham, widow of the Rev. Sir Robert Peat, deceased, henceforth take and use the surname of Smith, in addition to and after that of Taylor, and take, adopt, and use the arms of Smith, quarterly, with those of Taylor; such arms being first duly exemplified according to the laws of arms, and recorded in the Herald's Office, otherwise the said royal permission to be void and of none effect."

Woodifield Colliery was opened out in 1843. When it was closed in 1884 for some months, all the rats in the workings came out together and journeyed down Commercial Street in an almost solid mass of thousands upon thousands of the vermin. They finally disappeared down the sewers, and into other local mines. The colliery was again closed—finally this time—in 1909, when one hundred and fifty-eight men received their notices.

The railway at Crook was opened out on November 8th, 1843. Under the old Stockton and Darlington company, the first passenger station stood near to where now stands the present Goods Station, in West Road. It was not long, however, before a move was made to the present site. Crook has never boasted first-class station accommodation, whilst its train service has long been the despair both of travellers and townspeople alike. The first excursion from the town was to Redcar. The carriages were of the "cattle truck" variety; the train taking about five-and-a-half hours to do the journey. The present stationmaster is Mr. Thomas J. Wilson.

How the town was first granted a "lock-up" is stated in the following report:—

"At the Easter Sessions, April 9th, 1851, Mr. Scruton read the Chief Constable's Report, which stated that Crook had several mines in its immediate vicinity and a considerable population, not of the

most orderly description, and the want of a 'lock-up' at the place was much felt, the nearest being at Wolsingham and Bishop Auckland—six and seven miles away; such an establishment would, therefore, be a great convenience in this place, as well as in others similarly situated. After hearing the report, the chairman enquired if any one knew anything of Crook; and Mr. Elliott's description of the place, in reply to the question, had the effect of procuring for it the desired convenience."

This old place was considered good enough until 1897, when the present fine structure was erected. Sergeant Stephenson is the present officer in charge.

During the autumn of 1853 a severe epidemic of cholera raged in the town, and there were many deaths. Among those who died were Mr. Matthew Willan, sen., aged eighty-five; Mr. Matthew Willan, jun., aged forty-three; and Mrs. Sarah Calvert (daughter of Mr. Willan), aged thirty-nine—the deaths taking place within a few days of each other. The cause of the outbreak was attributed to the lack of dwelling-house conveniences. The village green itself, instead of being kept in order as a place for healthy exercise and recreation, was nothing more than a receptacle for the drainings of the dwellings which surrounded it. Dr. Lewis, of the Central Board of Health, visited Crook to investigate, and in his report he strongly denounced the practice of building dwelling-houses without those conveniences essentially necessary to health and cleanliness, and which he attributed to the total want of regulation in their erection.

In 1855 the town was fast becoming one of great local importance. Mr. Ralph Dickenson was postmaster, and letters arrived from Darlington at 8.30 a.m., the return despatch being at 5 p.m. The stationmaster was Mr. Robert Kipling. Among others who were resident in the parish were the following:—

Peter Campbell, saddler.
John Cowell, ironmonger.

JOHN EMMERSON, blacksmith.
ROBERT GRUNDY, blacksmith.
HENRY GRAHAM, colliery viewer.
JOHN HUTCHINSON, sexton.
Dr. WALKER KELLY.
Dr. J. WHINSHIP.
Dr. JAMES G. NICHOL.
Rev. WILLIAM SANDFORD, M.A.
JOHN KELLETT, builder.
JOHN LEE, stonemason.
W. MILLER, butter dealer.
ROBERT RENWICK, bookseller.
JOHN SNOWDON, linen and woollen draper.
WILLIAM SPENCER, resident viewer of Woodifield and White Lee Collieries.
SYLVESTER WHERLY, clockmaker.
C. C. WILSON, colliery agent.

BOOT AND SHOE MAKERS.—John Brass, Thomas Dodds, George Lax, Joseph Lax, Matthew Hutchinson, Charles Jackson, Richard Moore, Thomas Pattinson, Edward Robson, John Smith, Joseph Tallantire.

BUTCHERS.—Thomas Addison, Robert Brown, George Dodds, Joseph Hall, Joseph Horner, George Spence.

JOINERS.—Samuel Hare, William Lax, Joseph Maddison.

FARMERS.—John Emerson, Jonathan Hall, Thomas Hall, Thomas Jobling, Cuthbert Marshall, John Nicholson, William Proud, Jonathan Rippon, Robert Smith, John Wilkinson, George Willans, John Willans, John Wilson (Billy Row).

SCHOOLMASTERS.—M. Dickenson, Jonathan Hutchinson, James McLachlin, James Swale.

TAILORS.—R. Dodsworth, Jesse Hall, Joseph Jackson, George Stephenson.

GROCERS.—Joseph Bell (and hosier and draper), Ralph Boddy (and draper and druggist), Joseph Cowen, Thomas Dale, Ralph Dickinson, Thomas Dixon, John Elgie, Thomas Elliott. R. Forman, John

Gowland, Richard Humble, T. Sewell, Thomas Thompson, John Walker, W. Whitfield, James Wilson (and draper and druggist).

INNKEEPERS AND TAVERNKEEPERS.—John Robinson, "Bay Horse"; John Dickenson, "Crown"; Eleanor Linton, "Horse Shoe"; Thomas Bell, "Queen's Head"; Mary Hope, "Railway Tavern"; John Botham, "Royal Oak."

The Crook Cemetery was opened on July 24th, 1855. The first person buried there was Mr. John Jordan, Helmington Row, aged forty-six years. Up to the present date (August, 1915) 6,271 have been buried in the old portion, whilst, in the newer part, which was opened in 1877, the number buried is 7,429; a total of 13,700 burials, which is more than the present population of the Crook and Billy Row Parish.

The Crook Gas Company was incorporated on September 18th, 1856. Mr. W. D. White is the present secretary.

In the fifties there resided at Job's Hill Colliery, Robert Gibbon, who was designated "The Pitman Poet." He was born in North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland, in 1817, and died on the 1st of May, 1878. The only education he received was at the Barrington School, and he was sent to work at the Black Boy Colliery at the age of nine years. His life was a very laborious and chequered one, yet he contrived to write a considerable amount of verse, which he issued in five separate publications, all of which were well received by the press and public. His last years were marked by great physical suffering, yet they were rendered comparatively comfortable by the kind attention of a good and affectionate wife. Mr. Matthew Richley, the Bishop Auckland historian and poet, paid him a magnificent tribute in a poem entitled—"An Epistle to Robert Gibbon, a brother poet," of which the last lines read—

"Then still weave on your magic lays,
Until you've gained that crown of bays,
Bestudded 'round with jewels rare,
Which kings may crave, but genius wear."

Robert Gibbon's works are all worth more than a passing glance. He may not have been an educated man, yet his gift of language was wonderful, and his verses are pregnant with life. The following lines may fairly be said to be a vivid picture of the old mining days :—

"FACTS FROM THE MINE;

OR, CAUSE AND EFFECT.

"A cottage was ringing with musical joy—
A mother sat singing her infant boy,
Kissing it, blessing it—raising her strain—
Hugging it, pressing it, fain, O fain ;
Her heart was as light as the lambs on the lea ;
Its eyes were as bright as the dew on the tree ;
Its innocent freaks were the smiles of the pure,
And its chubby cheeks were the bud of a flower.

"Time on the wing went fleeting with joy,
Each little thing went well with the boy ;
He toddl'd along in his garments of plaid,
And never did wrong in the sight of his dad ;
That there were 'few sic' he oft did avow,—
His prattling was 'music that nought could outdo,'
And oh, it was really the best of his joys,
To see little Billy toss over his toys.

"Seven years roll'd, when they added four others,
And in that bit fold then were sisters and brothers ;
And life's shifting stages were crippled by want,
For poor daddy's wages were meagre and scant ;
And tho' they were humble, and liv'd on a crust,
With trade and its jumble they could not be just ;
And poor little Billy, tho' tender in years,
With infancy silly, and mind full of fears—
To the pit had to 'bowl off,' a pittance to get,
And it was the school of this once little pet.

"The 'caller's' harsh warning was hurl'd at the door,
And Billy each morning roll'd on to the floor,
Yawning, half-waken ; reluctant and slow,
With tender limbs aching, and heart drooping low ;
And, wailing and groaning, he'd leave his dear home,
At five in the morning, for regions of gloom ;
And there until seven at ev'ning he'd sigh,
Where a gleam from kind heaven never fell on his eye ;
The light but one day in seven he saw ;—
That transient Sunday which mercy made law ;

And it seem'd but a dream of life's delicious form.
And pass'd like a gleam of the sun in a storm.
Gloomy and woeful was time as it roll'd,
Horrid and awful the tales that were told,
Hellish, and fiendish the blasphemy wild ;
And tho' 'twas outlandish at first to the child,
The vile repetition the legacy gave,
And oft in derision 'twas hurl'd at a knave.

" Years after years fled,—Billy progressed—
Infantine fears fled—Billy he cursed ;
Cunning barbarity next on him crept,
Wisdom and charity latently slept ;
And plotting and scheming his fellows to wrong,
Was but his dreaming all the night long ;
Hard toil'd till callous in feeling and frame,
Canker'd with malice—untinted with shame,
Viciously, viciously, onward he'd go,
And competitionsly makes each his foe.

" Hours of leisure roll'd, and roll'd by—
Low was that treasure in the youth's eye ;
He'd eat, and he'd slumber, he'd yawn, and he'd stretch,
As his life would encumber the frame of a wretch.
After a gormandise, outward he'd reel ;
Wearied with home, and ease—thirsty he'd feel ;
To tavern he'd saunter, and mix with the throng,
The fighter and vaunter of feats wild and strong.

" Other years pass'd away—Bill was a man ;
But a course cast away from moral span ;
Av'rice had curs'd him with poverty deep ;
Ignorance nurs'd him, and lull'd him to sleep—
A sleep that was mental, and held him in thrall
And shaded the gentle ideas from his soul ;
Wealthy men spurned him—pious men preach'd—
Moral men mourn'd him—temperate men teach'd ;
Yet onward he rambl'd, and revell'd in sport,
And labour'd and gambl'd till death stopp'd him short."

In 1857 the Burns' Club Dinner was held at the "Wheatbottom" Inn, when an ode, specially written for the occasion by Mr. Robert Gibbon, "The Pitman Poet," was recited. In 1870 Dr. Armour, who resided in the town, presided over the local gathering of Burns' admirers. He was a native of Ayrshire, and was a relative of Jean Armour, the poet's wife. The Burns'

Club continues to celebrate the annual festival. Mr. James Wilson, Gracehill House, was secretary for many years. Mr. Alex. B. Rutherford is the present secretary.

The coldest Christmas Day ever known was that of 1860, when 45.8 degrees of frost were registered. In one town a horse was seen with icicles at his nose three inches in length and as thick as three fingers.

In 1862 some excitement was occasioned throughout the town and district in consequence of the exposure of a book called *Private and Confidential*, in which were the names of "Bad and Doubtful Customers, for use of members of the Crook Trade Protection Society." The *Times and Herald* in its paragraph referring to the matter, stated—"The book was never intended for public gaze; but for Mr. Bailey, one of the members concerned, and who may be termed 'Bad and Worse,' had his creditors been as ruthless to him as he has been to those whom he has either wilfully or carelessly exposed after his own defalcations have come to light; and it is to be hoped that both he and the publishers will keep their fingers clean from such acts in future."

A first attempt at holding an Agricultural Show was made in the early sixties (1862). This was perhaps more of a pig show than an exhibition of various cattle, and the show ground was the Market Place. It was next held in a field where Gladstone Street now stands. Following this, it took place annually in what we know as the old cricket field, below the Council Schools. These shows were by far the most successful ever held under the old regime, and there was a big falling away when the field behind the Rectory was next occupied as a show ground. The show lapsed for some years, during which a fairly successful Horticultural and Industrial Show was held in the Dawson Street cricket field. The Agricultural Show was revived a few years ago, and was again held in the old cricket field; though, subsequently, it was moved to the football field.

There was a corps of volunteers in the town over fifty years ago, and the movement has generally been more or

less prominent since that time. Interest, however, materially increased during the last twenty years ; and, as a result, funds were finally raised, out of which a very fine Drill Hall was erected in Croft Street. It was a memorable day when the opening ceremony was performed, for Crook was honoured by a visit from Lord Haldane, Secretary of State for War.

The first Flower Show held at Peases West was in 1865, and the first effort of a similar kind in Crook was in 1869.

Crook Hunt Steeplechases started in 1866, and were held annually for some years.

In 1866 Lady Barrington entertained the whole of the workmen at the Bankfoot Works and the local collieries to a feast. New brick-sheds had just been erected, and the repast was served on tables placed in the sheds. The occasion was one of great rejoicing ; and Lady Barrington had a royal reception when she visited the works.

Mr. John Finley, farmer, Quarry House, father of Mr. Thomas Finley, Allotment House, Fir Tree, was the first to use the Market Place for market purposes. He had a wood building erected, in which he sold meat.

The following is a copy of an interesting petition presented in 1867, in Crook Parochial School and Vestry Meeting Room (where the business of the Parish is regularly transacted) :—

> " *To the Overseers of Crook and Billy Row, Mr. Joseph Bell and Mr. Peter Campbell.*
>
> " GENTS,
>
> " We, the undersigned, regret extremely the present anomalous position of the Parochial School on the Village Green—an institution which has numbered among its former teachers such men as Frank Foster, Hindmarch, Mawson, and other scholars of eminence ; and among their pupils men

of great literary and mathematical renown, among others, Mr. Thomas Baker, of Elm Park, the author of numerous celebrated mathematical treatises and the inventor of the method of laying down railway curves.

"We request you to convene a General Meeting of the Ratepayers with a view to the appointment of officers who shall have a governing charge of the institution on behalf of the Parish at large, so as in future to prevent such irregularities as have late had place. It is not only the Parochial School, but also the meeting place for the holding of Parochial Meetings where the business of the Parish is transacted.

"F. Morson.
C. Morson.
W. Morson.
G. Morson.
G. Lax.
M. Hutchinson.
T. Stephenson.
R. Boddy.
T. Williams.
Rich. Moore.
T. Dodds.
T. Hall.
R. Hedley.
J. M. Wilson.
T. Linton.
H. Hayton.
T. Brown.
J. Bell.
A. Y. Talbot.
W. Burn.
Jas. Porteus.
J. Kellett.
Geo. Atkinson.
G. S. Hornby.
James Wilson.
John Hare.
A. Kellett.
M. Thornton.
G. Graham.
G. Lister.
Elizabeth Wilkinson.
Joseph Lax.
Ralph Hodgson.
J. T. Ryle.
T. D. Reed.
Thos. Gargett.
Thos. Brown.
W. Burnip, Junior.
R. Baker.
Joseph Hall.
J. P. Rhyme.
R. S. Fell.
G. Dodds.
W. Bainbridge.
W. Routh.
C. Walton.
Joseph Spark
Jacob Waud.

| | |
|---|---|
| John Nicholson. | W. Humphrey. |
| Wm. Pollard. | Jos. Jackson. |
| T. Stephenson. | J. Stephenson. |
| G. Bell. | Jesse Hall. |
| T. Catron. | John Walker. |
| Wm. Armstrong. | J. Lee. |
| G. S. Alderson. | J. E. Bygate. |
| G. Fletcher. | |

"December 6th, 1867."

It is usually taken for granted that Gladstone Street was so-called in honour of the renowned Liberal Premier. Such, however, is incorrect. It was named "Gladstone" after a great racehorse, which won one of the big races whilst the street was being built. Dawson Street was named after one Robert Dawson, who owned the land in the sixties, and was an innkeeper at Bishop Auckland. In 1764 all the land in this particular part, consisting of eight acres, was known as Gibb's Fields, and belonged to the Greenwell family.

In 1870 Mr. Corner, a prominent official at the Bankfoot Works, was given the appointment of Assistant Overseer. The matter was afterwards taken to Court, owing to the appointment being challenged, and the magistrates decided :—

> "That Mr. Corner was not duly elected, and they refuse to sign the appointment."

There was a great gathering of Orangemen at Crook in 1872. Much trouble was anticipated, owing to many Fenian threats, but the affair passed off comparatively quietly. At night there was some disturbance in the streets, but the two or three originators of the row were locked-up by the police.

A Polytechnic Exhibition was opened on March 10th, 1875, by Joseph Malins, Esq., G.W.C.T., under the auspices of the Good Templars' Brass Band. Mr. T. Cowell was secretary for the effort.

1874 was a memorable year in the town, for, in the course of the General Election in February, an unforgettable riot took place. Crook was then part of the South Durham Division, and had a voting strength of four hundred and thirty-five electors. Major Beaumont and Mr. J. W. Pease were the Liberal candidates, whilst

INHABITANTS OF CROOK PULLING DOWN FENCE ON CROOK MARKET PLACE, ABOUT 1862.

Lord Castlereagh (late Marquis of Londonderry) was the Tory nomination. People who were in Crook on that eleventh of February describe the riot as a terrible affair. At the subsequent Court proceedings, Supt. Oliver's evidence gave a vivid picture of what had happened. He said :—

> " On Tuesday, 11th February last, I was on duty at Crook. I arrived there about eight o'clock in the morning, and took charge of the inspectors, sergeants, and constables, numbering eighteen. At five o'clock in the afternoon, my attention was drawn to a large crowd of people, yelling and shouting, in front of the " Queen's Head " Hotel. I proceeded to the place in company with Inspector Spence, Sergeant Fleming, and four constables. I saw a number of men striking and jostling a man in the crowd. I afterwards found it was Mr. Maw, solicitor, who had been coming quietly down the

street. With the assistance of the force I had, I succeeded in getting Mr. Maw into the "Queen's Head" Hotel, and the crowd were afterwards dispersed. At that time I saw John Clarkson and George Kell. They were shouting and yelling. There seemed to be about eight hundred people, and Mr. Maw was in the middle. We proceeded up Hope Street, and, on nearing the station, we saw a disturbance. A cab was coming down the street, showing Conservative colours—red bills—on the side, and Mr. Laws was in it. A large crowd was following, and the driver seemed to be driving as fast as he could. The people who were following were shouting and yelling, and the police whom I first named followed the cab. In going down, we were reinforced by other four policemen. We went across the Green, where the crowd were running to. I saw the cab which passed us in Hope Street standing near the "Surtees" Hotel. The back-street was densely packed with people. As we were going towards it, the cab was thrown over on to its broadside, and the windows smashed with stones. I don't know whether the person was in the cab. I saw the man with the red hair—Thomas Tarn—standing near one of the hind wheels, but I did not see him throw stones. The cab was then taken further down the yard, and the police formed between the cab and the crowd, and a very great volley of stones was thrown over our heads at the cab. I could not say that any of the defendants threw the stones. We drove the crowd from the back-lane to the Green. The first thing I saw on getting on to the Green, was a volley of stones thrown at the windows of Surtees' Hotel from the crowd. I saw Thomas Clarkson in the crowd, about fifteen or twenty yards off the hotel. I called to the crowd to desist from destroying the property, and spoke in a loud voice to try and persuade them to leave the streets. They desisted for the moment, but they afterwards went

to Mr. Bell's (draper) premises, where the crowd charged upon the premises, and threw a volley of stones through the windows. I could not identify any of the defendants as being there. I put the men on the double, and when I got to the "Queen's Head" Hotel, I saw a number of stones thrown through the windows and at the doors. In going up to the front of the "Queen's Head," I saw the defendant—John Clarkson—attempting to force open the window shutter downstairs; I took hold of him, and forced him to one side. We formed up between the crowd and the hotel, and succeeded in pressing them back to the Market Place, in front of the Conservative Committee Rooms, at the window shutters of which some stones were thrown. I saw Dent and Clarkson in the crowd, but it was impossible to say whether they threw stones, as everyone seemed to have stones in their hands. We followed the crowd to Greathead's public house, and before arriving there, I heard a great deal of yelling and breaking of glass. I saw that the whole of the windows had been broken. The street was completely blocked up by the crowd, who were shouting and breaking windows. I called out at the top of my voice—'Desist destroying that property, or I shall make you.' The attention of the crowd seemed to be on the police, and stones were thrown from the crowd, some of which struck the officers, and two struck me. I then called out—'Every man leave the streets, or I shall charge upon you at once.' I saw George Dent at that time. Instead of leaving the streets, the crowd pressed down upon us, and continued to throw stones at the police. I gave orders to the officers to draw their truncheons; and, after fighting for about fifteen minutes, we succeeded in breaking through the front of the crowd. The mob all threw stones from behind. At the Police Station there were over two hundred people throwing stones through the windows, and

> they were shouting—'Let's give the b—— place Hetton.' On the crowd perceiving us, there was a tremendous howl from the whole lot, and a very strong volley of stones. Almost every man I had had been struck. After fighting four or five minutes we succeeded in dislodging them from the place. It was then getting to be about half-past eight, and I afterwards received eight constables and a sergeant from Bishop Auckland."

The conduct of the police was severely criticised at a meeting in the Mechanics' Hall, when about eight hundred persons were present. The chairman was Mr. John Bell, and the principal speakers were—Mr. Ralph Dixon, Rev. Gregory Renton (Wesleyan Minister), Mr. Isaac Wilson, Mr. Rd. Bones, Mr. George Black, Mr. J. Anderson, Mr. George Morson, and Mr. Simon Robinson. The chief resolution passed was—"That this meeting is of opinion that the police constables, acting under the command of Supt. Oliver, on duty on Tuesday, the 11th February, were guilty of violent and unjustifiable assault on several peaceable and respectable inhabitants of Crook and the neighbourhood." In the course of the evening it was remarked that one hundred policemen, with cutlasses, had arrived in the town, and that two magistrates were also there to read the Riot Act, if it was necessary.

Mr. James Wilson died in 1875. He, along with the late Mr. Henry Whitfield, who died in 1904, were two of the greatest of workers for the cause of Primitive Methodism. Mr. Wilson had also achieved fame as one of the famous "Twelve Apostles," who, in the Chartist period, went to London in 1844 to plead the cause of the pitmen. He left the mine and commenced business in a very humble way. Success rewarded his energy and industry, and he became one of the principal tradesmen in the town. He was one of the projectors of the Crook Gas Company, and held the position of chairman of the directors. He was also one of the promoters of the

Mechanics' Institute. All through his public life he worked earnestly for Primitive Methodism. In 1838 he became a local preacher, and, later, took the most active part in the erection of the first Primitive Methodist Chapel in 1847.

At the School Board Election in 1875 the result was as follows :—

| | VOTES. |
|---|---|
| A. PIPPITT, Church Hill (Roman Catholic).. | 1028 |
| WILLIAM HEPPLE (Independent)..... | 984 |
| R. DIXON, South View (Society of Friends).. | 963 |
| S. T. JONES, White Lea House (Independent) | 773 |
| THOMAS DOUGLAS, West Lodge (Independent) | 684 |
| JOSEPH ANDERSON, Crook (Independent).. | 675 |
| JOHN SCOTT, Crook (Miners' Candidate).... | 481 |
| ISAAC WILSON (Primitive Methodist)..... | 417 |
| R. DIXON, Greenfield House (Wesleyan).... | 395 |
| Rev. J. KING, (Churchman)..... | 254 |
| WM. BURNIP, Crook (Wesleyan)..... | 243 |
| Rev. T. DODDS (Presbyterian)..... | 141 |
| J. HUTCHINSON, Wheatbottom..... | 129 |
| ALEX. MACKAY, M.D. (Churchman)..... | 122 |
| MICHAEL STITT ..... | 68 |
| JOHN BELL, Crook..... | 61 |
| G. P. REED, Stanley House ..... | 55 |
| T. A. BROWN, Crook ..... | 18 |
| WM. GREENWELL, Job's Hill (Catholic).... | 13 |
| T. LINTON, Crook ..... | 11 |

The first seven were elected. The votes were counted at the offices of Messrs. Trotter, Bruce, and Trotter, Bishop Auckland.

In 1886 strong efforts were made to induce the North Eastern Railway Company to provide railway passenger communication between Crook and Waterhouses. Meetings were held at Crook, Stanley, Waterhouses, Bishop Auckland, and Durham, and a strong and influential deputation was appointed to interview the directors of the Company at York on June 3rd. The scheme was

fully explained by Mr. Thomas Douglas, who represented the suggested line as one of only three-and-a-quarter miles in length, commencing at a point where the Tow Law Railway joins the old West Durham line above Crook, passing up a gorge by Billy Hall, over the summit of the hill at Stanley, and thence, partially over the existing mineral line, in a gradual descent skirts the hill side east of Stanley until it joins the Dearness Railway a little west of Waterhouses Colliery. The heaviest gradient would not, on the route, exceed that of the Crook and Tow Law Railway.

Amongst others of the deputation who spoke were the Mayor of Durham ; Mr. H. T. Pierson, Brancepeth, acting for Lord Boyne ; Major L. Smith, Flass Hall, on behalf of landowners ; Mr. J. J. Allison, representing the Weardale Iron and Coal Company ; and Mr. James Gill, Crook, and Mr. William Burnip, Crook, for the trading classes of the district.

The chairman of the Board, while thanking the deputation, and reminding them of the present depressed condition in trade generally, assured it of the willingness of the directors to take the matter up if there was a reasonable possibility of making the line a paying concern, and intimated that their engineering staff would examine and report on the subject, and that the scheme should have the very best consideration of the board, who would afterwards communicate its decision.

At the Royal Show, held at Carlisle, in July, 1880, the champion bull was a Crook exhibit in "Duke of Howl John." This magnificent beast was bred in 1874 by Messrs. Vickers, " Howl John," Stanhope. Mr. John Vickers, " Mown Meadows Farm," was the owner of the animal, which carried off prizes in all parts of the country.

In 1881, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., visited Crook, and addressed a gathering in the Market Place, which was estimated at three thousand persons.

At Thistleflat Colliery a strike occurred in 1882. Five men were heavily fined at Bishop Auckland Court for interfering with a "blackleg."

In the course of the last half-century the district has been visited by serious outbreaks of fire on several occasions. In 1865 a fire occurred which was directly responsible for the opening out of a new part of the town. A shop occupied by a Mr. Rodgers stood where the "Surtees" Hotel now stands, and there was a blacksmith's shop adjoining. Mr. Rodgers' shop was completely destroyed by the fire, and it was afterwards decided to pull down the smithy. This space was the entrance to a street which was then made, and was named Emmerson Street, after the blacksmith, Mr. Emmerson.

On January 29th, 1871, there was an extensive fire on the premises in Church Street, used by Mr. John Gowland as a drapery and millinery establishment. The outbreak was discovered by Miss Gowland at five o'clock in the morning. Hundreds of people soon assembled, and there were plenty of willing helpers, but all their efforts, with the additional help afforded by fire engines from Brancepeth and Bishop Auckland, were of no avail. At one time it was feared that the whole of Church Street would become enveloped, and tenants in the houses and shops on each side of the burning premises began to remove their furniture, etc. Some small cottages were also demolished. The roof of the shop eventually fell in, and the danger was shortly after this overcome. In the midst of the excitement Mr. John Gowland, junior, fell, when on the roof, and was seriously injured. Other two persons—Mr. Graham and Mr. Wilson, Arthur Street—also received injuries. Some of the stock was carried into the churchyard, but what was saved from fire was trampled underfoot and destroyed. The damage was estimated at the large sum of £5,000.

Few who were living at the time will ever forget Saturday, November 18th, 1893. On that day Crook

and district was visited by a storm, the like of which has never been known hereabouts. The barometer showed a drop of one-and-a-half inches, and the wind and snow were alike terrible in their intensity. The day was made, if possible, even more memorable by the complete destruction of Stanley Church by fire. Standing, as it does, in such a prominent site on the hill side, the burning church was seen for miles around from every part. The church was rebuilt, and arrangements were made for the re-opening on November 17th, 1894. Three days before, on November 14th, the Sunday School, a fine building, which stood on an adjoining piece of ground, caught fire, and, like the church, was burned to the ground. The re-opening of the new church on the Saturday was carried out amid truly unforgettable surroundings.

In the same year, 1894, there was another big blaze in the town, when Cummins' Soap Works, which stood on a site adjacent to the present Drill Hall, was entirely demolished.

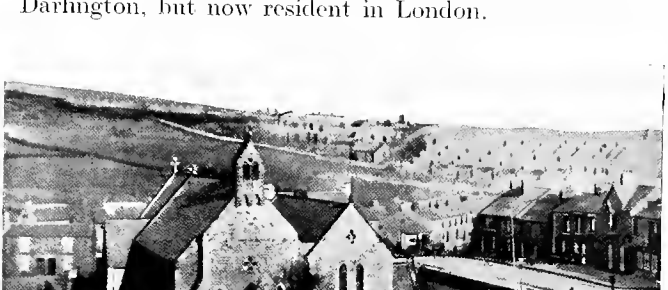
At Wooley Colliery, on January 31st, 1911, a large washer caught fire, and much damage resulted before the flames were put out.

On November 28th, 1912, there was a keen frost. At six o'clock in the morning a fire broke out in the works of Messrs. Walton Brothers, contractors, Croft Street. The flames soon had a firm hold of the whole place, stocked, as it was, with goods of an inflammable nature. The fire defied all the efforts made, and burned for twenty-four hours. The damage was estimated at £6,000.

## PARISH CHURCH.

The Parish Church, dedicated to St. Catherine, was licensed by the Bishop of Durham under the 6th and 7th, William IV. Previously services had been held in the old building in the Market Place, now the Town Council Offices, and which is surmised as having been erected about 1820 by a few of the farmers in the district. The name of the Rector of Brancepeth, in 1837, is down in

the book of rates as an occupier, probably due to his ownership of this building. The foundation stone of the present church was laid on the 10th of June, 1840, by G. H. Wilkinson, Esq., of Harperly Hall. Even with its subsequent additions, it remains a plain structure, built in the Gothic style. At first it consisted of a nave, but, in 1878, a wing was added ; and, afterwards, on January 21st, 1885, the chancel was completed, and opened by the late Bishop Lightfoot, who preached a sermon in the afternoon. In the evening the preacher was Canon Falconer. Canon Watkins preached on the following Sunday. The organ was installed, and opened in 1891 by Mr. F. Tovey, then organist at Holy Trinity Church, Darlington, but now resident in London.



PARISH CHURCH, CROOK.

The burial ground attached to the church was very soon filled, and has not been used for about sixty years. The first person buried was Mary Lindsay, Bolden Close (afterwards Boldon Close, and now Bowden Close). She was thirty-two years of age, and, at the interment, on January 28th, 1844, the Rev. John Duncombe Shaftoe, Rector of Brancepeth, officiated. The first baptism was on October 15th, 1843,—John, son of John and Mary

Smith, shoemaker, Crook. Rev. Robert Thompson (probably curate at Brancepeth) was the officiating minister. The first persons married were William Raine, sawyer, son of John Raine, to Ann Fenwick, daughter of John Fenwick. This took place on November 17th, 1845. The Rev. Wm. Sandford, Curate, officiated. The latter clergyman was the first incumbent. His appointment took place in 1845. He died very suddenly in 1872, and a handsome stained glass window, "The Good Shepherd," was erected to his memory. Mr. Sandford, who was over seventy years of age, was succeeded by the Rev. John King, M.A., who came from a curacy at St. James' Church, Gateshead, in 1872. His death, in 1913, after forty-one years of untiring labours, was a big blow to both the church and town. He had active connection with all the important operations in the town ; whilst during his incumbency of the church, it was estimated that he had been responsible for the raising of a total sum of £15,000 on behalf of local church work. In 1907 he received a gift from the parishioners of one hundred guineas, and Mrs. King was the recipient of a silver tea service. It was chiefly through Mr. King's great effort that the present Church Institute and Sunday Schools were erected. The opening ceremony was in 1903. The buildings cost £1,650. Since his death a stained glass window to his memory has been placed in the church. At the same time another window was inserted by Mrs. H. Lister as a memorial to her parents (Mr. and Mrs. Farrar Morson). On the north side there is also a beautiful window, erected by Dr. Mackay, J.P., Palmfield House, to the memory of his wife and youngest daughter. In October, 1913, the present rector, Rev. Jacob Ridley Barker, M.A., Sunderland, was given charge of the church. The patronage of the living was formerly vested in the Shaftoes, of Whitworth, but it is now the gift of the Rector of Brancepeth. The present rector's warden is Mr. William Machell. The churchwardens are Mr. Thomas Walton and Mr. John Surtees.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Roman Catholic Church has always had a devoted following in the town. Beautifully situated in Church Hill, it is noticed for miles around. It is built in the second pointed style of Gothic architecture, and is dedicated to "Our Blessed Lady Immaculate and St. Cuthbert." The foundation stone was laid on the 8th September, 1853, by the Catholic Bishop of Hexham, and the church was opened on the 25th October, 1854. The interior decorative work is very fine, the high altar being carved in Caen stone, and surrounded by a beautiful stained glass window of five lights, containing full-length representations of the Blessed Virgin, St. John the Evangelist, St. Luke, St. Augustine, and St. Bernard. Together with day schools and a presbytery, it was estimated to cost £3,000, which sum was raised by private donations and voluntary subscriptions. The Rev. Seton Rooke was the first priest. Afterwards the church was in the charge of the Rev. T. W. Wilkinson, who, later on, became famous as Bishop of Hexham. He was known everywhere by the familiar title of "Father Tom." In 1869 the Rev. Augustine Pippitt became priest. He held this position until the present year, when he retired to Whitby. The reverend gentleman, in the course of his long untiring ministry, was responsible for an invaluable amount of work. He was responsible for innumerable additions to the church, convent, and school; and perhaps his most striking success was the erection, in the jubilee year, of the tower, with clock and bells complete. The tower is a beautiful piece of work, and is a landmark for miles around. The Rev. Father Hayes is the present priest.

## WESLEYAN METHODISTS.

The Wesleyan Methodists have had a long connection with the town and district. The first mention we find of Methodists is in a Dales (Weardale) Circuit book, which states that—"Billy Row, in 1773, began to contribute, and sent amounts varying from three shillings

to sixteen shillings per quarter. It was the longest and largest contributor of any of the places mentioned." Whether John Wesley visited Billy Row is not recorded, but residents who lived half-a-century ago stated that they had been informed by their parents that the great founder of Wesleyanism was twice preaching on the Village Green. It would be at the beginning of the last century when Wesleyanism gained its first hold in the town. Preachers came from Bishop Auckland and the surrounding districts. A society was formed many years before a permanent place was secured in which to conduct services. The first meetings were in a room belonging to Mr. William Robson ; after which they got possession of the village school (the present Township Offices). Here they were greatly harassed by the opposition of the Vicar of Brancepeth (Crook being in his parish), and he ultimately got them ejected from this place. The members had to fall back on the only place available, a granary, which was part of the farm which stood on the site now occupied by the " Royal " Hotel. Where is now the front door of the latter, were formerly the stone steps which led to the granary ; and the meetings were often greeted with the noises made by the horses in the stables below. After this period a room was obtained in Mr. J. Linton's house. Then Mr. George Lax opened his kitchen, which served for thirteen years as a meeting house. The first chapel, now in the occupancy of the Moravian Church, was opened on Tuesday, November 22nd, 1844, by the Rev. J. Kirk, Barnard Castle, and the Rev. T. Dunn, Durham. The late Mr. John Kellett was one of the chief promoters of this sanctuary, and for some years took an active part in the various Circuit movements. In 1862 the old chapel was superseded by the present large and excellent buildings in Hope Street. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. M. Braithwaite, senior ; in connection with which ceremony, and the public meeting held in the evening, S. D. Waddy, Q.C., Esq., London, took an active part. The chapel was opened on Sunday, November 23rd, by

Squire Brook, of Huddersfield. The Minister's house, Chapel, and Sunday School adjoin each other, and form a very compact and useful set of buildings, built at a cost of £2,000 ; which were further improved in 1913, at an expense of £600.

The Crook Circuit was commenced in 1871, having previously been connected with the Bishop Auckland Circuit. At that time it had two ministers, thirty-two local preachers, five hundred and forty-one members, and property valued at £5,000 ; the debt on the same being £1,135. Crook is one of the chapels named in the first plan of the Wesleyan preachers in the Bishop Auckland Circuit, 1838-9. The meetings were held on Sundays every fortnight, at two o'clock in the afternoon. On the Bishop Auckland plan of 1871, the Rev. W. M. Armistead is designated as minister at Crook, and amongst the names of the preachers are—Mr. W. Burnip, Mr. J. Spark, Mr. R. Bones, Mr. W. Harland (Billy Row), Mr. Ralph Dixon, Mr. J. Askew (Bowden Close), Mr. Robert Burnip, Mr. D. Plews, Mr. C. Plewes, Mr. G. Hankey, Mr. R. Young (Bowden Close), and Mr. W. Smith, the latter on trial.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Burnip were the first to be married in this church.

In connection with the building of the Sunday Schools, and other alterations, which cost £1,250, Special Services were held on Tuesday, February 2nd, 1875, when the Rev. P. McKenzie was present. Mr. Ralph Dixon, in his financial statement, showed £127 cash in hand ; £300 from members in the town and district ; concert, £25 14s. 0d. ; foundation-stone laying, etc., £113 16s. 6d. —including £20 from J. W. Pease, Esq., and £25 from Messrs. Pease and Partners Limited ; Mr. Wardle's lectures, £6 9s. 0d. ; service of song, £7 19s. 8d. ; Mr. McKenzie's visit (including tea party), £80 ; and £25 from Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan and Company. The Rev. J. J. Phillips is the present superintendent minister. The Circuit stewards are—Mr. T. Finley, Fir Tree, and Mr. J. H. Anderson, Crook.

## PRIMITIVE METHODISTS.

The Primitive Methodist cause in the town has long had a healthy following. Fifteen years after the famous Camp Meeting at Mow Cop, Mr. Francis Nathaniel Jersey, an old-time powerful travelling preacher, came to this district. He preached at Crook on January 30th, 1822, and a "Society of seven was formed." On the following day a prayer meeting was held. Whether the society continued we know not, but, a few years later, Primitives assembled at Burnt House Farm, near Thornley village, followed by a meeting-house being obtained somewhere in the vicinity of Mill Street. It was not until the forties that anything further is noted. On August 9th, 1840, a Camp Meeting was held at Crook, when the preachers were—the Rev. J. Watson, Mr. Vickers, Mr. N. Harrison, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. Jopling, Mr. G. Race, Mr. Walton, Mr. Maddison, and Mr. Fleming.

The Crook preaching or mission room was, in this year, allied with the Westgate Circuit, and for some years, with Bishop Auckland and Waterhouses, was a part of the station. Services were held once a month, at two p.m. on Sundays. In 1844 the first class, of six members, was formed in Crook. In 1847—on a Westgate Circuit plan—Crook, White Lea, and Roddymoor are named ; and local preachers resident in the district were—Mr. J. Willan, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. Crozier, Mr. Chambers, and Mr. Moor.

Mr. Jas. Wilson was a "victim" of the miners' strike of 1844. It was largely owing to his efforts that a chapel was built in 1847. This is the building now known as the "Temperance Hall," and was erected by subscriptions, with accommodation for about three hundred persons. In 1850 the chapel was attached to the Wolsingham Circuit. The local preachers included—Mr. Jas. Willan, Mr. Jas. Wilson, Mr. Crozier, Mr. Moore, Mr. Boddy, and Mr. Johnson.

The foundation stone of the present fine building was laid on New Year's Day, 1868, by Arthur Pease, Esq. The cost was £2,000. Six hundred and fifty sittings were provided. There was a procession of Sunday School scholars, and a Public Tea was held in the British School-room. At a Public Meeting in the chapel, addresses were given by the Revs. T. Dods (Presbyterian), G. S. Hornsby (New Connexion), J. M. Wilson (Moravian), E. Rust (Primitive), L. F. Armitage, Bishop Auckland; C. G. Tetley (Primitive), W. French (Primitive), also Messrs. F. Spoor, J. Willan, and J. Wilson; with Mr. J. Kellett as chairman. The preachers on the following Sunday, January 5th, were—the Revs. R. Shields, Hexham; C. G. Tetley, Crook; and W. French, York.

When the chapel was opened in 1869, there was great rejoicing; and, after two week ends, the following financial report was given :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| First Sabbath Collection .... .. .. | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Profit from Tea ..... ..... | 45 | 0 | 0 |
| Collection after Public Meeting ..... | 11 | 2 | $11\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Second Sabbath Collection ..... | 32 | 0 | $0\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Lecture and Supper ..... | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| | £145 | 2 | $11\frac{3}{4}$ |

Since that period there have been many additions and improvements. In 1913 there were extensive alterations and the installation of a very fine organ. These cost over £800. The church, when ready, was re-opened by Mr. H. J. Mein.

The Rev. James Taylor, whilst superintendent of the Circuit, died at Crook in 1907. The Rev. Joseph Rutherford is the present superintendent minister.

## PRESBYTERIANS.

The Presbyterians have been established in Crook something like sixty years.

Fifty years ago the present church buildings were opened for public worship, the foundation stone being laid a year earlier, 18th October, 1864. Previous to the building of the church, services had been held in a schoolroom in Queen Street, Crook, which had to be entered by an outside stair, and still later in the old Mechanics' Hall, which stood where Mr. Pollard's shop now stands. It was here that the first Communion Service was held, and was administered by the Rev. James Potter, of St. George's, Newcastle. At that time services were being conducted at Tow Law by a probationer of the church, called Mr. Dods. He agreed to come to Crook and hold a service in the afternoon, and when his engagement at Tow Law ended he came to Crook to look after the mission there. In some two years a congregation was formed, the Rev. Robt. Brown, of Erskine Church, Newcastle, receiving certificates and admitting young communicants. At length, with the sanction of the Newcastle Presbytery (the Durham Presbytery did not then exist), a call was given to the Rev. Mr. Dods, who was ordained as minister of the congregation in the Old Mechanics' Hall. The new church was opened on Whit-Monday, 1865, the late Rev. Principal Cairns, then Dr. Cairns, of Berwick, preaching. Miss Lamb is the only one left of the original members. Besides the late Rev. Mr. Dods, the Revs. W. Murray, A. P. Adamson, F. J. Chambers, and G. K. McBean have been ministers during the last fifty years.

The *Auckland Times* of June 9th, 1865, contained an account of the opening of the new church, which we reproduce in full. It was as follows :—" A neat, commodious, and comfortable new church in connection with the United Presbyterian denomination was opened at Crook on Monday by the Rev. Dr. Cairns, of Berwick, who preached an eloquent and impressive discourse from Malachi iii. 12. In the afternoon a tea meeting was held in the Mechanics' Hall, when about two hundred persons partook of an excellent tea, and in the evening there was a public meeting held in the new church, when interesting

addresses were delivered by Dr. Cairns, the Revs. Thomas Dods, pastor of the congregation; Richard Leitch, Newcastle; Charles Friskin, Mount Pleasant; and the Rev. Mr. Willey, Crook. The collections which were taken during the day and evening amounted to £80 13s., a sum which was deemed exceedingly creditable to the congregation, seeing that it had been in existence only about two years. At the close of the evening meeting it was intimated that the whole expense of the building had been defrayed, and that the treasurer had a surplus of nearly £10. On Sunday first the Rev. John Bruce, LL.D., Newcastle, will preach in the forenoon and evening."

The members of the church intend holding their Jubilee Celebrations in September of the present year. The Rev. A. F. Darge is the present minister.

## UNITED METHODISTS.

The first meetings of the New Connexions—now known as the "United Methodists"—took place in a cottage nearly eighty years ago. In the fifties, services were held in the old Mechanics' Hall, in North Terrace; and, from 1856, the room known as "Miss Dickenson's Schoolroom," was used till the present church was erected in 1859. The church was greatly indebted to many munificent gifts from the late Joseph Love, Esq., who spared no effort to make the church successful. Some of the original trustees included such well-known men as John Kellett, John Gowland, Thomas Addison, Thomas Thompson, George Lax, Robert Renwick, Wm. Edgar, and Wm. M. Carr. The latter was also chapel organist. The church continues to do much useful work, and has long been noted for the excellence of its choir.

## BAPTISTS.

The Baptists first gathered in the Temperance Hall, following the departure of the Primitive Methodists to a more commodious church. The effort originated on the part of a few Baptists who lived at Waterhouses, and who

continued for a long time to be responsible for the carrying on of the work. The movement gradually strengthened, and, eventually, the present neat erection was raised in Grey Street. The church has a good number of members and many Sunday School scholars. Connected with this church—for over twenty years—was the Rev. A. Graham Barton, one of the best-known men in the north. He left Crook in 1911 to engage in Temperance work. Later he was invited to one of London's largest churches, where he is still very active as its pastor. The Crook Baptists are now under the charge of the Rev. A. Westwood, who is much esteemed by the congregation.

## MORAVIANS.

The Moravian Church at Crook is unique, inasmuch as it is the only one of its kind north of Leeds. It is understood that the original pioneer of this remarkable Crook church was one named Allanson, who resided at Wadley Farm, Fir Tree. The meetings were first held in a schoolroom ; but, in 1862, the present premises were secured on the departure of the Wesleyans to their Hope Street church. The Moravians have been ably served by several esteemed ministers, including the Rev. — Carey (first minister), Rev. W. Batt, Rev. J. Stinton, and the Rev. G. W. McLeavy. The present minister, who has only recently commenced duty, is the Rev. F. Summers.

The Welsh Wesleyans have also held services for many years in Commercial Street ; whilst the Plymouth Brethren have long gathered at their meeting room in Grey Street.

## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

Of the public buildings in the town, the Mechanics' Institute is one of the oldest and most important. At first the meetings were held in a room, the Institute being established on August 9th, 1848. Subsequently, subscriptions were received towards the erection of

a building, and the foundation stone was laid in 1851 by Mr. James MacLaughlan, a teacher at the Parochial School. The premises, which cost some £250 to erect, were on the site where Mr. J. H. Pollard's house and shop, in North Terrace, now stand. The lower storey of the original building was let as a shop, whilst the upper room was occupied on Sundays by the members of the congregation of the New Connexion Methodists. There were about sixty members of the Institute. The annual subscription was three shillings for adults and two shillings and sixpence for apprentices. Classes were established, and lectures were also occasionally delivered to the members on various subjects. The library contained about seven hundred volumes. The necessity for larger accommodation soon became felt, and the present commodious edifice was built and opened in 1867. It is a stone building, and was erected at a cost of £1,000. On February 25th, 1870, a Polytechnic Exhibition was held, in an endeavour to reduce a debt of £400 which remained on the building. The Rev. G. P. Wilkinson, Harperly Hall, president of the Institute, performed the opening ceremony. This exhibition was one of the most successful efforts ever held in the town, and continued for a fortnight. It is stated that nearly eight thousand people visited it, and excursions were run from Darlington, Bishop Auckland, and other places, for the occasion. Mr. Irwin, a well-remembered official at the Bankfoot Works, was then secretary to the Institute. In the last few years many improvements have been made. The building contains a large public hall, holding seven hundred persons, a library of nearly one thousand three hundred volumes, reading room and ante-rooms, and a billiard room containing two tables. The billiard players attached to the place have always been of more than average local ability. The membership varies from two hundred and fifty to three hundred, paying an annual subscription of four shillings ; ladies paying two shillings. Mr. Edward Milburn, now residing at Tow Law, was secretary for some years. He was

succeeded by Mr. Thomas Burnip, the present respected secretary of the local Co-operative Society. Mr. Burnip held the post of secretary for twenty-seven years, and much of the success attaching to the Institute has been the result of his capable handling of its affairs. Mr. E. F. Peart is the present secretary, and Mr. Samuel Candler, a prominent townsman, is president. The Institute possesses a handsome cup, valued at fifty-five guineas, which was won outright in a miners' billiard competition some years ago. The billiard team, since that success, has also won the Bishop Auckland and District League championship on five occasions, and the Crook and District League once.

## TEMPERANCE CLUB.

The Temperance Social Club, situate in the Market Place, was started in 1903, the opening ceremony being performed by the then Alderman Arthur Henderson, Darlington, who, latterly, has become a member of the Cabinet and the Privy Council, and is now known as the Right Hon. A. Henderson, M.P. The Club has achieved a considerable amount of success. It has a billiard room with two tables. There is also a reading room, and a library containing seven hundred volumes. Mr. John N. Scales is the present secretary, with Mr. John Henderson as president. The club has recently come into the ownership of the Temperance Hall, situated on the south side of the Market Place. This building has had a somewhat varied career. It was built by the Primitive Methodists in 1847, with accommodation for about four hundred persons. Attached to it were day and Sunday schools. Following on the departure of the Primitives to their present place of worship, the Hall was used by the Baptists, who worshipped here until they came into possession of the church in Grey Street. It was next utilised by the Temperance Party for their weekly gatherings ; and has also, for long years, been used as the meeting place, on Sundays, of the Salvation Army.

There are two Clubs in the town. The Constitutional Working Men's Club, opened in 1902, is situate in Church Street. The Belle Vue Workmen's Club occupies a prominent site in the Market Place.

The Masonic Lodge was opened in March, 1884, by the Marquis of Londonderry, Right Worthy Provincial Grand Master. His Lordship arrived at Crook Station at mid-day, and drove to the Mechanics' Hall, where the lodge was duly opened. Bro. Samuel Holdsworth was installed as the new Lodge's first Worshipful Master. Other officers were :—Bro. John Ostle, Bro. Wm. Love, Bro. Thos. Hardy, Bro. the Rev. Richard Coulton, Bro. Richard Proud, Bro. Edward Milburn, Bro. Thos. Young, Bro. Wm. Arrowsmith, Bro. Cochrane, Bro. Jas. Ord, Bro. Thos. Hall, and Bro. John Dawson. Since that time, the Lodge has become one of the most important in the county. The Masonic Hall, in Church Street, was erected in 1889. The present Worshipful Master is Bro. Farrar Morson.

The Council Schools comprise a fine set of buildings. The foundation stone of the first portion to be erected was laid on January 23rd, 1866, by Joseph Pease, Esq., father of the later Sir J. W. Pease, M.P. The day was observed as a holiday. Two thousand children from Crook, Billy Row, Stanley, and Sunniside were in the procession from the Railway Station. At later periods many additions were made ; and, finally, a splendid new erection was placed on an adjoining site, and opened on January 14th, 1914, by Councillor Wm. Pallister, J.P. This building cost over £5,300. Mr. James Tillotson is the present head master.

A successful private school has also been carried on for many years by Mr. and Mrs. James Wilson. Formerly they held the premises which is now the Rectory. The school is known as the " Gracehill Academy," and is situate in Dawson Street.

The late General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, held a service in the Wesleyan Church in 1904.

The White Lea Drift was closed in 1904. Over three hundred men and boys were thrown out of employment, though most of them were taken on at the other local collieries.

Mr. Henry Whitfield died in 1904 at the age of seventy-nine years. He came to Crook in 1844, and conducted a successful business in Hope Street. He was one of the founders of the Primitive Church in the town; and, right up to the time of his decease, took a prominent and helpful part in all its affairs.

Mr. Thomas Hardy, one of the leading officials at the Bankfoot Works, died in 1906. He worked at Bankfoot for fifty-six years.

Mr. William Burnip, secretary and manager of the local Co-operative Stores for forty years, and Mr. Thomas Pedelty, treasurer to the Stores for forty-one years, both died in 1906.

Mr. Ralph Dixon, West Road House, also died in the early part of the same year. He was clerk to the old School Board for twenty-nine years, and had a long service on the Local Council and the Auckland Board of Guardians. In the seventies, he was secretary to the Mechanics' Institute. He also rendered a lifelong service to the cause of Wesleyan Methodism.

Stanley Drift was closed in 1911.

On August 15th, 1912, there was a sad calamity at the Bankfoot Works, when Edward Reed, foreman bricklayer, Candle Villa, Crook, and Robert Morris, grease maker at the Bankfoot Bye-Product Works, lost their lives while endeavouring to rescue men who had been overcome by gas in a tar-still at the Bankfoot Works. On the same occasion, Benjamin B. Race, blacksmith, and William Bage, fitter, risked their lives in efforts to rescue the men who had been overcome. These facts were placed before the notice of the "Carnegie Hero Fund" trustees, and they made the following awards :—

"The widow of Edward Reed to receive a memorial medallion and an allowance of twenty-five

shillings per week for herself and two children. The parents of Robert Morris to receive a memorial medallion. Benjamin Race and William Bage to receive the sum of £10 each and an honorary certificate."

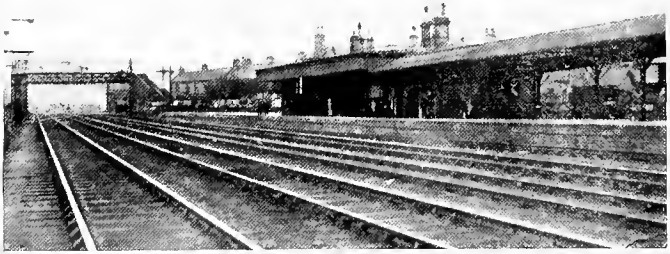
Mr. John Bell, relieving officer for thirty-five years, died in 1912. He took a prominent part in the town's affairs ; and it was largely owing to a telling speech on his part that a proposition to buy—a few years ago—new ground for burial purposes failed to carry in 1906.

Mr. John Smith, the veteran Bankfoot cricketer, died in the early months of the present year (1915). He worked as a cokeburner at the Bankfoot Works for sixty years, and was well known all over the county.

Following upon the sinking of the "Lusitania," an anti-German epidemic broke out in the town. The climax came in May, when a crowd, estimated at seven thousand persons, gathered in Hope Street shortly after nine o'clock on Saturday night. A general riot ensued, and two butchers' shops were destroyed, and their contents thrown into the streets. The proceedings did not cease till three o'clock on Sunday morning. Many arrests were subsequently made by the police, and heavy fines were inflicted.

"Watergate Farm," one of the most picturesque in the district, is an old place—exactly how old is not known, but evidence of its antiquity came to light about six years ago, when, in an old walled-up room, on entrance being made, there were found a spinning-wheel—which crumbled to dust on contact with the air—and a cresset stone. The latter was in a fine state of preservation. These stones date back many centuries, and few are in existence. They contain holes, which were filled with grease and tallow ; a wick being inserted, to provide light for the monks in their early morning worship and other functions.

Sport has always had plenty of followers. "Buckstick" was a great game in the sixties, and cricket also



*Top*—Church Street. *Centre*—Military Row.
*Bottom*—Railway Station.

secured a hold early on, and was continued right up to two years ago, when the town itself had no recognised leading club, though "Peases West" still continues. Years ago there was also a good Rugby football club. This lapsed, and, four years ago, another one was started, but this also has become defunct. The town football team has long been recognised as one of the best amateur organisations in the north. They won the English Amateur Cup in 1901-2, and the Northern League Championship in 1914-15. The cricketers also gained many successes in the local leagues and cup competitions. Many sterling players have been produced, both by the Crook and Bankfoot Clubs.

The town has two benefactions connected with its career—the "Dobbinson" Charity and the "Bernard Bryan" Charity.

The "Dobbinson" Charity originated as far back as 1662—the year, by the way, in which the Act of Uniformity was passed—when Anne Dobbinson left £66 13s. 4d. in trust, directing that the income should be divided among the poor of certain townships in the ancient parish of Brancepeth in the following proportions: Willington, nine-sixteenths; Helmington, Crook, and Billy Row, three-sixteenths; other townships in Brancepeth parish, four-sixteenths. In 1745 the money was invested in about seven acres of land at Willington, the rent whereof was £9 per year. There was a cottage on the land, and in 1823 this was converted into a schoolhouse and let for £1. In 1827, the records show, the total income of £10 was divided thus: Willington, £5 12s. 6½d.; Helmington, 14s. 3½d.; Crook and Billy Row, £1 3s. 2½d.; Brancepeth, 15s. 6d.; Brandon, £1 2s. 4d.; Stockley, 3s. 6½d.; Tudhoe, 8s. 7d.; the last four places being the parts of the ancient parish of Brancepeth specified in the bequest. For thirty years the money appears to have been regularly distributed among the deserving poor of the parishes in sums varying

from one to three shillings, but in 1857 application was made to the County Court for an order establishing a scheme whereby the income from the charity was to be applied to the benefit of five schools in the parish of Brancepeth, three-sixteenths to go to the Crook schools for the purpose of affording gratuitous instruction to not less than three poor children of either sex without reference to their religious persuasion.

Thus the "Dobbinson" bequest became an educational charity, and all went smoothly until the year 1868, when the Rector of Brancepeth, as chairman of the trustees, informed the Charity Commissioners that the Crook Church of England Schools had been closed, and suggested that as the nearest Church of England School to Crook was at Waterhouses, Crook's share of the charity should be paid to that school. The Commissioners, however, replied that it was not clearly stated that the school at Waterhouses was capable of affording instruction to the children of residents in Crook, Billy Row, and Helmington, adding that if it was, the suggestion might be a proper one. No reply to this letter seems to have been sent by the Rector, and Crook's share of the interest was left in abeyance until the year 1880, when the Commissioners ordered it to be applied to the other parts of Brancepeth's ancient parish. Meanwhile the charity had been accumulating and increasing. In 1868 some of the land was sold and the purchase money invested in £438 10s. 3d. Consols, the remainder of the land and cottages being let for £19 per year, and thus the total income had become £32 3s. 1d. In 1874 the remainder of the land and the cottages were sold and the money invested in £811 16s. 8d. Consols, the annual income then amounting to £34 7s. 8d. In 1879 the Charity Commissioners were informed that Crook's accumulated interest in the bank amounted to £259 4s. 5d., and this they ordered to be invested in Consols, of which £264 17s. were purchased. It was the interest of this sum that had thenceforward to be applied to the other townships.

### Crook's Share.

So matters went until 1895, when parish councils came into being, and one of the first things that the Crook Parish Council did was to communicate with the Charity Commissioners, pointing out that since the closing of the Church Schools in the township, Crook's share of the charity had been applied to other schools, so that Crook derived no benefit from it at all. In January, 1898, the Commissioners made another order directing that the income of the £264 17s. Consols and three-sixteenths of the income of the £1,250 6s. 11d. Consols should be applied in granting prizes or rewards to children attending the public elementary schools. By a report to the Commissioners for the year ending May, 1901, the sum of £13 6s. 7d. was shown to have been paid to the Crook School Board and applied in the provision of prizes as ordered. But since 1904, when the County Council became the education authority for the whole of the county of Durham, the part of the income claimed by Crook does not seem to have been applied. The trustees, indeed, informed the Durham Education Committee in 1911 that the accumulated interest on Crook's share of the capital since 1904 amounted to £99 15s. 4d. The County Committee cannot administer the charity, being informed by the Board of Education that it is not affected by the proviso of section 3 of the Education Act. It has been suggested that Higher Education Scholarships for Crook children should be founded, but the trustees, apparently, do not favour the suggestion. Some time since an agitation was begun at Crook, and taken up at Willington, with a view to getting back the use of the charity, and the Crook Urban Council have agreed to summon a conference which will be attended by representatives of all the local authorities in the district concerned—the Crook, Willington, Spennymoor (Tudhoe), Brandon and Byshottles Urban Councils, and the Brancepeth and Helmington Row Parish Councils. The result will, no doubt, be an application to the Charity

Commission for an enquiry as a preliminary to an order for the application of the income to higher educational objects.

The " Bernard Bryan " Charity originated through one Bernard Bryan, a coke worker, employed at the Bankfoot Coke Ovens, who devoted his life's savings towards providing a charity to be dispensed at Christmas time to a certain number of poor people. Five shillings per head was granted a few years ago ; but, latterly, the amount given has been three shillings and sixpence to each person entitled to benefit.

There are other places—including the famous works at Bankfoot—in the town which are worthy of a record ; but these, together with numerous items of interest, will perhaps, at some future period, be more fully dealt with. What has been written in the previous pages will, we think, be read with interest by all resident in the town and district, and also by many who have left their " calf-yard " for other lands.

CROOK AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

# Co-operative Corn Mill, Flour and Provision Society

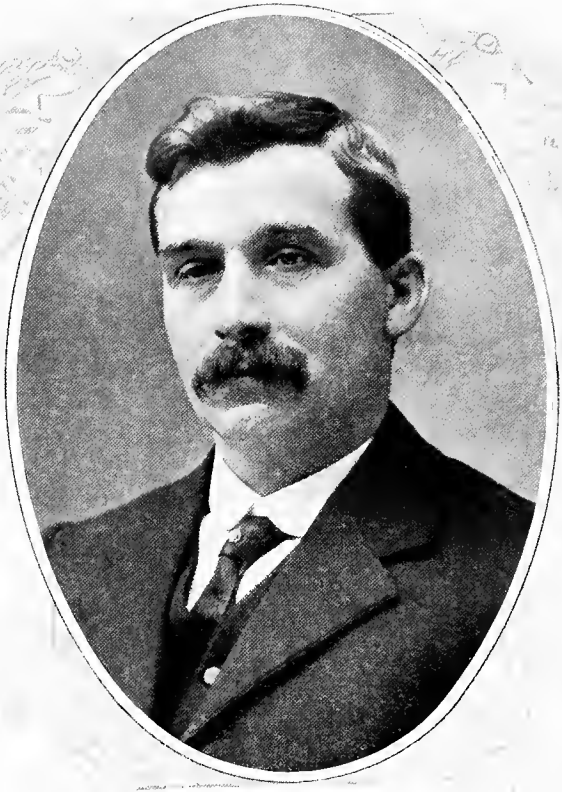
LIMITED.

## HISTORY OF SOCIETY.

### CHAPTER I.

AUGUST 26TH, 1915, to local Co-operators, stands out as a red-letter day, for it witnessed the completion of half-a-century's operations of our Society. The seed, pregnant with the fruitfulness of Co-operation, planted fifty years ago, has stood the strain of storm and time more than successfully, and the giant tree of business we have to-day is the result.

Who of the small band of workers of 1864 and 1865 would dream that they were the pioneers of an effort which was to attain such remarkable proportions, and create such innumerable benefits for their fellowmen ? Carrying our mind's eye back to the middle of the sixties, we can see the little group gathered together in the first shop in Wheatbottom. It is a committee meeting. The only chair in the place is occupied by the chairman. The other members of the committee have found a seat as best they can. Some sit on the counter ; one or two are on boxes ; and other two have found the small barrels of



William Jackson (Waterhouses),
President, 1915.

powder to be a suitable resting-place. The shelves are not too well filled with goods, for money as yet has not rolled in abundantly to the till. The light for the room is from a tallow dip. Truly a weird scene, and more like a gathering of conspirators than a meeting of men who we can see are intent on a movement for the betterment of the working-class population in the district. We see on their faces a dourness and determination which are bound to command success. They tackle difficult problems with the same calmness as if they were discussing the buying of a new door-latch; the buying of even a door-latch is given the same keen consideration as the larger purchases receive. Presently the manager of the shop gives to each member of the board a cup, into which he pours tea. It is a new sample, and these men believe in the market-woman's maxim: "Try before I buy." At last the business is got through, and whilst some go straight home, one or two maybe call at Joe Botham's, at the "Sun Inn," just for a "nightcap."

And thus their programme went on week after week, month after month. One or two fell away, but the majority stuck to their guns, and many lived to see the glorious harvest of helpfulness spread out to thousands of Co-operators every year; all the result of the first tiny seed they had sown.

In the first three or four years several happenings occasioned much discouragement. These troubles now and again threatened the continuance of the establishment, but they were finally overcome, and the business increased rapidly, every half-year showing large increases over the previous period. A comparison of figures with those of other societies shows our Society in a very favourable light, so far as rapidity of progress may be measured. From the start, the membership and sales jumped by leaps and bounds in a manner which can only be adjectived as "remarkable." For this the excellent committees of management; the capable master working hands; the consistent support of the members;

the solidity of the Society's financial position; all alike can be credited in due proportion as contributory factors in the successes which have obtained.

The particular individuals and the several matters all receive our attention in future pages, so we proceed now to the first part of the wider story.

We have seen in the history of the town how it first came into notice by reason of its connection with a corn-mill.

The proposal to erect another corn-mill adjacent to one which had stood some four hundred years was finally ended by the commencing of a Co-operative Store.

It was a corn-mill on paper only, and never as a building had an existence. But it was out of the chaos of its troublous affairs that our Store was given birth on August 26th, 1865.

The population of the parish of Crook and Billy Row in the fifties was nearing the 6,000 mark, and we can be certain that in the number were many who had already sampled the Co-operative Movement in both Lancashire and Yorkshire, and could testify to its greatness. They would know it had met a long-felt want, and, in all parts of the North, success after success was being chronicled, following in the steps of the first effort by the famous Rochdale pioneers in the forties. The working classes were just awakening to the fact that they could be a more important power throughout the land than had hitherto been the case, and in Co-operation was promised a means by which they became the holder of the whip and a vacation of the position of the top. They had long been spun round for the benefit of a few others. At last had been solved a problem how they themselves might do the spinning and reap the benefits.

Between the years 1851–1860 some 145 societies were founded in various parts of the country, but Durham County had previously been broken as a Co-operative ground. This was in 1842, when the Teesdale Workmen's Industrial and Provident Society was formed. In 1858

the Blaydon District Industrial and Provident Society commenced, whilst 1859 saw the launch of the Sunderland Economical and Industrial Society. Our neighbours, the Bishop Auckland Co-operative Society, started its operations in 1860.

Meanwhile, our own local people had not missed the touch of the Co-operative spirit, which was so soon to become an important factor all over the country, for in Crook a first effort in running a Co-operative store was made in 1850. Who initiated the movement we know not. The store we do know became a reality, but apparently its career was of very few months' duration. The premises were in Commercial Street, and afterwards were used by the late Mr. John Gibbon as a butcher's shop.

One of those most actively identified with this first store was the late Mr. Isaac Wilson, who for many years had a business as a druggist in North Terrace. If not actually the pioneer of Co-operation in the town, yet Mr. Wilson must have been one of the first workers in the local movement ; and we find him later, in 1864, taking a very prominent part in the formation of a Co-operative Corn Mill, and he was almost invariably elected to the chair at the different meetings.

There was also another Co-operative arrangement amongst a few working-men, but at what date we have not been able to discover. The movement was to a great extent very similar to one which had been successfully worked in Glasgow in 1844. This consisted of the purchase of four different articles of food in quantities sufficient for a month. Each shareholder, or, to use a better term, each Co-operator—for there were no monetary shares—paid for just as much as he required for the month. A system of credit was also introduced, which permitted the payment to be made in four instalments. Two of these early Crook Co-operators used to make the journey to Sunderland every month, and on their return the supplies were distributed amongst the

subscribers, each according to his requirements. The method to us of a later age may appear crude, yet it was based on a good foundation. Each person knew how many goods he required, and this was, as a rule, paid for in advance. There was no waste or leakage, and the goods were considerably cheaper, for the profits of the middle-man were not to be encountered. It was true Co-operation in many ways. The goods reached the consumer straight from the producer or manufacturer, and in a humble way may have been likened unto our present Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, which, by its creation, enables our Stores to purchase supplies without providing profit or plunder, as it is sometimes—perhaps not incorrectly—termed, for the middle-man.

## Chapter II.

SO interwoven is the life history of the Corn Mill with the present Co-operative Society that, to bring about a proper connection of events, we give the particulars relating to the promotion of a Corn Mill. It may here be stated that it was this effort which was responsible for the inclusion of "Corn Mill" in the Society's registered name, an item which has oft-times been questioned.

The gatherings of our early Co-operators assembled in the Parochial Hall—the present Urban Council Offices.

John Siddle, First Secretary.

If the stones of the old building could only speak, we can be certain they would yield an interesting story of our town and its affairs.

The first meeting was held on March 4th, 1864, and the second four days later, on March 8th. There is no record of what business was done at these meetings beyond a list of those appointed to constitute a committee. There were, however, 1,600 prospectuses issued, and these were headed, "Crook Co-operative Corn Mill Society. Capital, £1,700, in 1,700 shares of £1 each. Entrance fee, 1s. per share." The promoters must have had great faith in their effort to expect such a capital finally being taken up. This optimism must subsequently have suffered, for the capital subscribed never reached £70.

From the following list of members of the committee, it will be seen that all classes representative of a town such as Crook then would be, were represented. A few never got beyond this first committee stage, not even to the extent of taking out a single share in encouragement of the effort. We believe the list contains the names of no one now living. Probably Mr. William Buston, who died about two years ago, was the last of these first pioneers.

JOSEPH JACKSON, Tailor, Commercial Street.
ISAAC WILSON, Druggist, North Terrace.
WILLIAM WILLOUGHBY, Coke Burner, Arthur Street.
CHRISTOPHER BOWSER, Farmer, Marshall Green.
BENJAMIN METCALF, Brick Agent, Marshall Green.
ROBERT BOOTH, Grocer, Etherley Lane.
JOHN BROWN, Tailor, Dove Fold Bank.
THOMAS HILDRETH, Farmer, Roddymoor.
THOMAS DODDS, Shoemaker, Church Street.
JOHN ROBINSON, Labourer, Caby's Row.
THOMAS HALL, Coke Burner, Caby's Row.
JOHN TAYLOR, Labourer, Crook.
JOHN SIDDLE, Labourer, Arthur Street.
EDWARD BROUGHAM, Contractor, Wilkie's Square.
WILLIAM BUSTON, Joiner, South Street.
THOMAS RAINE, Nail-man, Wheatbottom.

William Oddy, Butcher, Witton-le-Wear.
Richard Bousfield, Mason, Ratten Row.
George Lister, Mason, Hope Street.
John Cowan, Auctioneer, Elliott Street.
George Vasey, Auctioneer, Crook.

The original minute book used at the meetings is still in existence. Of the penny-exercise variety, it is now yellow with age, and in parts dilapidated and undecipherable. It remains an interesting link with the past, and at the same time breathes out a living, unconquerable message—"We worked not in vain."

The records of the business carried out at each meeting are short, but to the point. The book was first used on March 21st, 1864, when we read as follows :—

"Minutes taken at the meeting held at the Parochial Hall, March 21st, 1864.

"Proposed that a committee of four or five be appointed to look out a suitable piece of land to build a mill, etc., on.

"The committee appointed were :—

Mr. Isaac Wilson.
Mr. George Willoughby.
Mr. Joseph Ritson.
Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson.
Mr. George Lister.
Mr. Edward Brougham.

"Meetings were arranged to be held at Waterhouses, Witton-le-Wear, and Tow Law, and the deputations appointed to the various places were :—

Mr. Isaac Wilson.
Mr. John Siddle.
Mr. George Willoughby.
Mr. Joseph Ritson.
Mr. James Horn.

Mr. GARGETT.
Mr. WILLIAM WILLOUGHBY.
Mr. JOSEPH JACKSON.

"The bell to be sent out, and we allow the bellman 1s. 6d."

These minutes are in the handwriting of Mr. John Siddle. There is no record of his appointment as secretary, but this was his post, judging from the minutes, right from the start. Neither is the appointment of Mr. George Willoughby, as treasurer, mentioned.

At the second meeting it was decided to ask Mr. Douglas and Mr Watkin "to help the cause of Co-operation by taking out shares." Other business done was the appointment of the following as a committee of management :—

Mr. WILLIAM WANLESS.
Mr. WILLIAM WILLOUGHBY.
Mr. MICHAEL TURNBULL.
Mr. EDWARD BROUGHAM.
Mr. JAMES HORN.
Mr. THOMAS GARGETT.
Mr. GEORGE LISTER.
Mr. JOSEPH RITSON.
Mr. THOMAS DODDS.

At a meeting on April 12th, reports were read regarding two sites—one belonging to Mr. Hall, and the other at the "Balaklava Inn." Mr. George Lister was appointed to examine and report on Mr. Hall's land, and Mr. Joseph Ritson had to perform the same duties touching the land at the "Balaklava Inn." The latter, of course, is a reference to the well-known "Balaclava Inn" at the bottom of Church Hill, and as a site must have been favourably situated for such a venture as a corn-mill, adjacent, as it is, to the Crook or Beechburn Beck. It finally proved the more attractive of the two sites, for, on Wednesday, April 20th, it was agreed :—

"That the "Balaklava" site be bought, and that 1,000 cards be issued at once."

The cards were for the purpose of collecting money towards the scheme, and also as a means by which intending shareholders could gradually, by small instalments, become the holders of one or more shares.

A public meeting was held on May 2nd, over which Mr. Isaac Wilson presided. The committee's reports were made relative to the work which had been done, and were accepted as satisfactory.

On May 11th, Mr. Ritson, Mr. Brougham, and Mr. Gargett were appointed as a deputation "to wait on Mr. John Kellett and Mr. Watkins, to ask them to take shares and use their influence." Mr. Isaac Wilson and Mr. Willoughby were elected to attend a meeting at Witton, and Mr. Ritson and Mr. Gargett had to visit Tow Law. Mr. Arthur Pease, Mr. Thomas Daw, and Mr. Joseph Fryer, Smelt House, were also to be invited to become trustees.

The first mention of any money payments is on May 25th, when £2 5s. 7d. was paid to Mr. Linton for Printing, and 3s. 6d. to Mr. Richard Fox, the town crier and bellman.

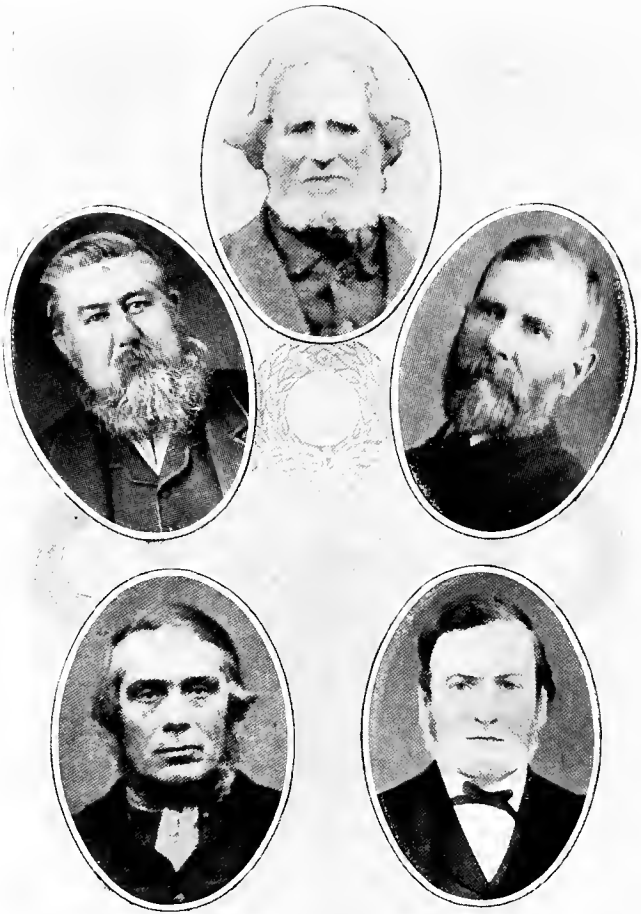
Mr. Pease, Mr. Daw, and Mr. Fryer apparently did not accept the position of trustees, and on June 29th, Mr. Edward Brougham was appointed a trustee, and Mr. Chas. C. Wilson and Dr. Walter M. D. Kelly were to be asked to become the other two trustees.

Matters progressed fairly rapidly, and on July 13th, Mr. Joseph Hackworth was instructed to draw up a plan as early as possible. On this day also it was carried :—

> "That Mr. George Willoughby be bound in the sum of £150 ; Mr. Tweedy, of Stockton, being his bondsman."

On July 20th, it was decided :—

> "That the money in the hands of Mr. Willoughby be at once placed in the Bank at the Post Office, in the names of the Treasurer, Secretary, and Mr. Edward Brougham."



PIONEERS (1).

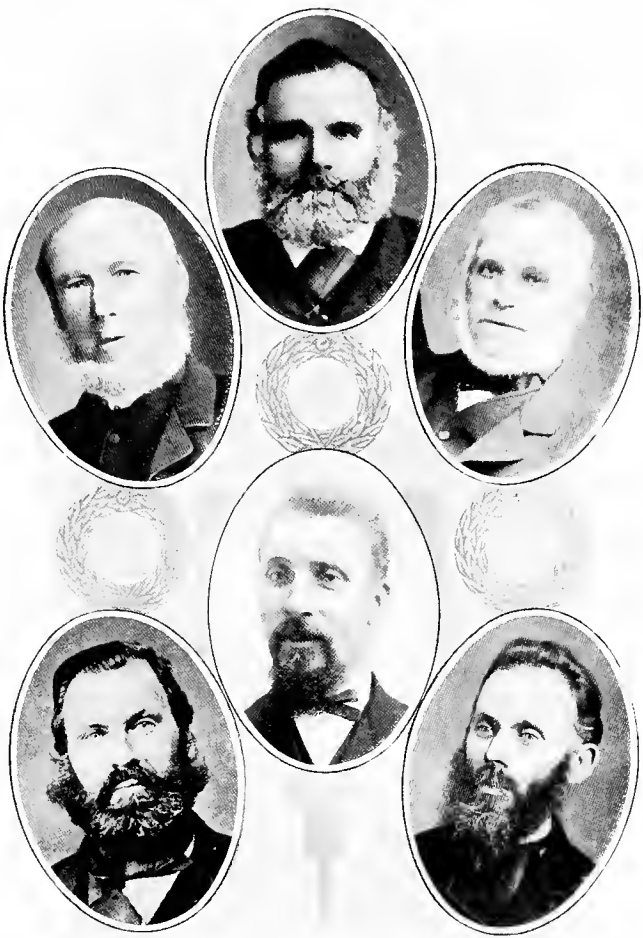
William Bland.

Henry Bowes, One of the First Committee. Chairman, 1881, 1882, 1883.

Wm. Burnip, Senr., Committee-man, 1865. Father of Wm. Burnip, late Secretary and Manager.)

Adam Suddick, Old Committee-man.

Thomas Pearson.



PIONEERS (2).

William Willoughby, Committee-man, 1865.

Isaac Wilson,
One of the Pioneers in Crook.

George Batey,
Committee-man, 1865.

Thomas Waddle, Old Member of Committee.

William Harrison,
Committee-man 1865.

John Ashman,
Committee-man, 1868.

August 3rd saw a motion carried :—

"That £30 be put in the Bank on August 4th"; and this left a balance in hand of £6 17s. 1d. Whatever other progress may have been made, it could hardly be said that the finances were very rosy.

At the next meeting, on August 10th, the report of the proceedings is somewhat quaintly worded :—

"Publick Meeting in the Institute on August 10th, when the Committee Meeting resigned, and proposed that the Mill be prosecuted with vigour and a new Committee elected, consisting of :—

Mr. Thomas Groves,
Mr. Joseph Jackson,
Mr. Thomas Raine,
Mr. Edward Brougham,
Mr. William Willoughby,
Mr. William Elgey,
Mr. John Robinson,
Mr. Joseph Ritson,

with those in office; and that Mr. Edward Brougham be a trustee, with Mr. Michael Turnbull and Mr. Bowser, Witton-le-Wear."

On August 17th it was decided :—

"That Mr. Thomson be requested to measure the land for the Mill and order deeds for payment of the same.

"That the Treasurer receive the sum of £2 for his treasurership for one year, and that the Secretary be paid £1 10s. 0d. for the first six months commencing from the 17th August."

On September 7th it was passed :—

"That the form of Rules from John Todd Pratt be passed with additional alterations."

Mr. Pratt was the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

It was next decided, on September 28th :—

"That the money, £40, be put in Messrs. Backhouse's Bank at Bishop Auckland.

"That any person going on the business of this Society, be paid after the rate of 4 shillings and with railway fares."

Mr. Siddle and Mr. Ritson were elected to go to Shildon to order books ; and Mr. Wilson was appointed to wait on Mr. Kellett to ask him to become a Trustee.

Delay on the part of the printer was responsible for the entry on October 19th :—

"That Mr. Linton be wrote to, stating that if the Rules be not forthcoming by Monday, the 24th inst., 5 per cent. be deducted for every day after that time, and if Mr. Linton cannot abide by that resolution that they remain on hand."

Mr. W. D. Trotter was presumably engaged as solicitor to the Society, and he was waited on by Mr. G. Willoughby to—

"Enquire whether the trust-money must be taken up at once, or at what time this Society can have the use of it."

It was decided on December 7th :—

"That the specifications lay at Mr. Willoughby s ; sealed tenders to be sent to Mr. W. D. Trotter, the same to be advertised in the *Auckland Herald* and the *Durham Chronicle* as soon as possible."

The first meeting in the year 1865 was held on January 4th, and two important resolutions were passed :—

"That a room be built in connection with the Mill, for the convenience of the members, capable of containing not less than 350 people.

"That the subject of a Co-operative Store be taken into consideration next meeting."

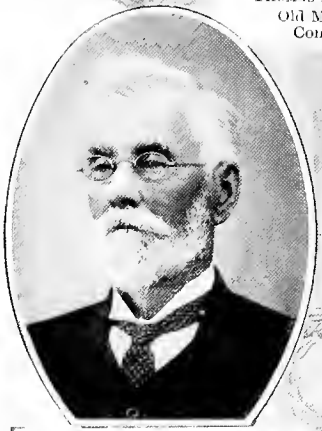
Here was evidence of the progress made and of the ambition it excited. Shares were being taken up in a

PIONEERS (3).

JOHN ROBINSON, Old Committee-man.

ALEXANDER FRENCH.

THOMAS ARMSTRONG,
Old Member of
Committee.



JOHN COATES,
Old Committee-man
and Auditor.

BENJAMIN COATES,
Old Committee-man.

fairly satisfactory manner, and the committee were already looking ahead. The decision to discuss the question of commencing a store gives us visions of an immediate unanimity that a move in this direction would promptly follow. But our shock comes at the next meeting, on January 11th, when, with Mr. Wilson in the chair, it was—

> "Moved and carried that the last minute of the former meeting be rescinded."

It is a blunt record, and reads as a rude check to the sympathisers of the idea of a store. Their success, however, came later. At the same meeting it was decided to hold weekly meetings of the committee. The minute reads :—

> "Moved and carried that a chareman take the chare every Wednesday evening at Half Past Eight o'clock."

On January 25th it was intimated that Mr. G. Willoughby had resigned the post of treasurer, and Mr. John Mitchinson was appointed to the vacancy.

The rebuff on January 11th was soon challenged by the store enthusiasts, and on February 15th they carried the day, for it was—

> "Moved and seconded, and unanimously carried, that a General Meeting of Members be called to take into consideration the making of By-Laws and commencing a Store in connection with the Mill of the Crook Mill Company Limited, and that the meeting be called the first week after the Mill is let."

The secretary was—

> "Reinstated at a salary of £2 10s. 0d. for the next 6 months."

Immediately following this, a hitch occurred in the negotiations for the land, and on March 23rd, Mr. W. Willoughby, Mr. J. Siddle, and Mr. W. Atkinson were appointed—

> "To look out a site for the Mill."

The land which had been under consideration was owned by Mrs. Storey, Durham, and the deputation either was unsuccessful in their quest for a new site, or the committee again became enamoured of their first choice, for on March 29th it was carried—

> "That the wall on the ground purchased for the Mill be paid for, the sum being £7."

The purchase, however, was not at this time completed, for Mr. Willoughby had to visit Durham to interview Mrs. Storey, and the decision to buy the ground was made on April 17th, when it was carried—

> "That the land be accepted at the price offered to us, £65; and that the Mill be advertised this week on the authority of Mr. Trotter."

We here note that several of the meetings were held in Arthur Street, in the houses of Mr. W. Willoughby and Mr. Siddle. The houses are now known as "The Gardens," and are owned and occupied by Mr. W. Harrison.

We also find, on March 29th, a first mention of Mr. Henry Bowes, Waterhouses, and on April 5th, of Mr. Thomas Pedelty. Both men right away took a big part in the movement. Mr. Bowes early on became chairman, whilst Mr. Pedelty, after a few weeks, became treasurer.

Resuming our perusal of the records, on May 17th it was carried—

> "That Mr. John Mitchinson be asked to make specification for House, Cart Shed and Stable, and that he be reminded that we must have a room to meet in."

The Mill advertisement was ordered to be placed in the *Durham Chronicle* and the *Auckland Herald*, on May 12th.

On June 7th it was agreed—

> "To call a General Meeting of Members for June 21st, and that the tenders be acknowledged."

THOMAS PLDELTY,

Pioneer and Treasurer,
1865 to 1905.

The special meeting was brimful of proceedings of a far-reaching character. The reading between the lines gives us a preliminary sound of the death-knell of the Mill project. The chairman was the Rev. Thomas Dods, who was the first minister attached to the Crook Presbyterian Church. He was chairman on several occasions, but drew the line at officiating in this position when the meetings later on were held in the "Sun Inn."

At the meeting it was moved—

> "That the Bishop Auckland Mill be seen and enquiries be made as to whether it is to be let."

As an amendment it was moved and carried—

> "That the Auckland Mill be laid aside."

The next item of business was a proposal carried unanimously—

> "That the present funds of the Society be used to commence a Store, to be repaid to the Mill Account; that the present shareholders allow their profits in the Store to accumulate to the value of £1, that is one share in the Store; that all new members entering the Store to pay down their share, or shares, to the value of £1 per share, and their profits in the Store to accumulate to the value of a share in the Mill, and be handed to the Mill Account."

The Auckland Mill here mentioned was somewhat of a drag on the Bishop Auckland Co-operative Society's first efforts, and we take the following extracts from that Society's excellent *Jubilee History*, prepared by Mr. T. Redshaw, secretary :—

> "The Corn Mill Society appears never to have been a very robust or flourishing concern. It was run on small lines, and was often crippled for want of capital, but it was a plucky attempt on the part of these men to tackle the thorny question of production. In 1867 the Mill got into difficulties, and the committee of this Society agreed to grant them a loan of £10. In the following year the Mill failed,

its fall being hastened by the sudden disappearance of its manager. The Co-operative Provision Society as a whole did not seem to be seriously affected by the fall, but many of the members in their individual capacity would be sufferers. Strenuous efforts were put forth to lighten the blow. Appeals were issued by Mr. Moore, then manager of the Store, to all Co-operative Societies in the County, which were fairly generously responded to."

Our own Society were among the contributors, a grant of £1 being made on August 23rd, 1871. Maybe it was a gift of thankfulness that they themselves had not embarked on what to others proved a hazardous venture.

Judging from the records, the Crook Mill Account at this period (August, 1864) would have to its credit a sum of about £70—all the contributions of intending shareholders. These latter continued their connection with the newer effort, and may really be stated to have constituted the first members of the Society. Arrangements were afterwards made whereby anyone who had joined for the purposes of the Mill and wished to withdraw, was to be paid out as the funds of the Society permitted. Almost everyone appears to have been content to identify themselves with the Store, and the following is a list of these first persons who joined for the erection of a mill, compiled as accurately as possible from the old books, which contain both Mill and Store members' names :—

1864.

March 1..Joseph Jackson, Tailor, Crook.
,, 4..Isaac Wilson, Druggist, Crook.
,, 4..William Buston, Joiner, South Street.
April 4..Joseph Jopling, Brakesman, Bowden Close.
May 18..Ralph Young, Miner, Mount Pleasant.
,, 18..John Willoughby, Labourer, Crook.
Sept. 17..John Gowland, Miner, White Lea.
,, 23..Roger Halliday, Miner, Quebec.
,, 25..William Mayor, Coke Drawer, Waterhouses.

1864.

Oct. 5..JOHN OVERSBY, Miner, Oakenshaw.
,, 5..WILLIAM JONES, senior, Miner, Mount Pleasant.
,, 5..WILLIAM JONES, junior, Miner, Mount Pleasant.
,, 5..WILLIAM BESTFORD, Miner, Waterhouses.
,, 5..THOMAS PEDELTY, Coke Burner, Bankfoot.
,, 5..MICHAEL MCPARTLAND, Joiner, Grahamsley.
,, 5..DOROTHY PATERSON, Widow, Job's Hill.
,, 5..WILLIAM PATERSON, Joiner, Job's Hill.
,, 5..WILLIAM ATKINSON, Miner, Bowden Close.
,, 5..THOMAS GROVES, Labourer, Crook.
,, 5..JOHN DOWSON, Blacksmith, Wheatbottom.
,, 5..ROBERT LONGSTAFF, Coke Burner, White Lea.
,, 5..PATRICK HENRY, Miner, Wheatbottom.
,, 5..THOMAS JOHNSON, Tailor, Tow Law.
,, 5..GEORGE LISTER, Grocer, Tow Law.
,, 5..Rev. THOMAS DODS, Presbyterian Minister, Crook.
,, 5..STEPHEN BROUGHAM, Coke Burner, Crook.
,, 5..GEORGE MURRAY, Miner, Waterhouses.
,, 5..ROBERT BELL, Miner, Waterhouses.
Nov. 10..WILLIAM HARRISON, Blacksmith, Bowden Close.
,, 18..THOMAS CALVERT, Miner, Wheatbottom.
,, 30..RICHARD WILKINSON, Labourer, Wheatbottom.
,, 9..MARY MITCHINSON, Widow, Crook.
,, 16..JOHN WALTON, Miner, Bowden Close.
,, 16..MICHAEL GLEN, Miner, Crook.
,, 16..THOMAS ATKINSON, Miner, Job's Hill.
Dec. 7..MARY O'NEIL, Wheatbottom.
,, 7..MARGARET O'NEIL, Wheatbottom.
,, 7..CHARLES PATRICK O'NEIL, Wheatbottom.
,, 7..JOHN ARMSTRONG BLAKELOCK, Brancepeth.
,, 7..STEPHEN JOHN FUTERS, Screenman, Brancepeth.

1865.

Jan. 2..THOMAS MORTON, Miner, Waterhouses.
,, 2..JAMES FELL, Miner, Waterhouses.
,, 2..WILLIAM HETHERINGTON, Coke Drawer, Waterhouses.
,, 4..WILLIAM CLOSE, Miner, White Lea.
,, 16..JONATHAN RITSON, Miner, Waterhouses.
,, 25..ROBERT ATKINSON, Labourer, Crook.
Feb. 2..THOMAS PEARSON, Joiner, Crook.
,, 13..HENRY BOWES, Coke Inspector, Waterhouses.
,, 14..THOMAS BESTFORD, Miner, Waterhouses.
,, 14..WILLIAM PINKNEY, Blacksmith, Waterhouses.
March 27..MICHAEL BURRELL, Miner, Waterhouses.
,, 27..THOMAS BOWMAN, Miner, Waterhouses.
May 31..WILLIAM WILLOUGHBY, Coke Drawer, Crook.

1865.

June 1..James Horn, Tailor, Crook.
,, 15..William Milburn, Joiner, Grahamsley.
,, 16..William Askew, Miner, Fir Tree.
Aug. 23..John Siddle, Labourer, Crook.
,, 24..George Batey, Coke Burner, Crook.
,, 1..George Willoughby, Crook.

All are names of well-remembered persons, and almost every one of them, if not all, has passed away. Numerous descendants are, however, living, and the great majority have allied themselves to the movement which their fathers created. Much might be written of the characteristics of those we have named, but space forbids.

## Chapter III.

THE decision to commence a Store was promptly attended to, and an immediate offer was made to the Rev. W. Sandford, first Rector of Crook, of £18 per annum for a house and shop in Bridge Street, tenanted by Mr. John Gowland at that time, but now the premises of Mr. Whitfield, yeast merchant. This effort failed, and after consideration of other likely premises, an agreement was finally drawn up with Mr. Joseph Botham, to rent a house and shop belonging to him. The premises are now occupied by Mr. Robert Siddle, general dealer, Wheatbottom, and are very little changed from their appearance fifty years ago, when they were the Stores.

The agreement with Mr. Botham read as follows :—

> " Between the Crook Co-operative Society on the one part, and Joseph Botham on the other part, the said Society agree to take, and the said Joseph Botham agrees to let, certain premises situate in the township of Hemlington Row, that is to say, a Dwelling-house and Shop situated in Wheatbottom, and containing shop and kitchen and two bedrooms, for the annual sum of £16 per year, the rent to be paid at the end of every three months, but the Society to have six months' notice to quit the premises ; and should the company put up any erection for their use, the said Joseph Botham agrees that he takes the same at valuation or allow it to be taken down, and that the said Joseph Botham paint all the premises within six months."

Mr. Botham was landlord of the " Sun Inn," where, in the first years of the Society's career, the General Meetings were held in the long room. His terms with

the Society for his premises were favourable to the latter and were typical of the man, for he is said to have been a man of admirable character and responsible for many kindly actions. He was also a man of " big importance," because—he once made the journey by train to London and back, which was regarded as a great performance in those early days.

The premises obtained, it was next decided—

> " That a man be advertized for, married man preferred ";

and Mr. T. Pedelty and Mr. W. Willoughby were appointed as a

> " Sub-committee to carry out the Shop Question."

The " man " was to manage the shop, and out of three applicants selected by the General Committee, Mr. Pedelty, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Siddle were elected to make a final choice, and this fell on one Henry Hayton, Durham. On August 16th the appointment of Mr. Henry Hayton as manager was confirmed by the committee, and his bond accepted. The secretary and manager were empowered to procure suitable books for the Store's business, and Mr. Pedelty and Mr. Jackson were to audit the books on Monday, August 21st. Mr. Pedelty, also, on August 16th, was appointed treasurer, a position he held for forty-one years, until his retirement in 1906. In addition, Mr. Pedelty was chosen to accompany Mr. Hayton when the latter went to buy in the Newcastle markets.

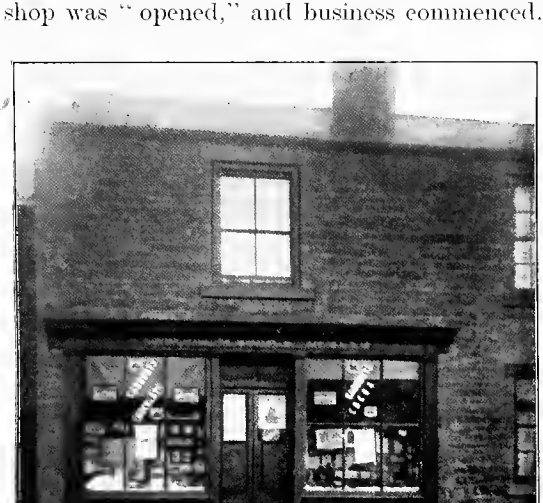
It was decided to place Mr. William Willoughby's name up at the shop, a proceeding rendered necessary to fulfil the requirements before a shop's license to sell was in order.

The question of what salary be paid the manager was evidently a matter of secondary importance, for the matter came up for consideration on August 23rd, when it was—

> " Moved, seconded, and carried that the manager be paid 24 shillings every Saturday night."

Mr. W. Willoughby was instructed to buy three oil lamps for the shop, and the secretary was paid his salary and re-elected.

Thus was everything got ready for the opening of the shop on August 26th. No great orations marked this event ; no flourishing of trumpets ; no procession round the town ; no tea party nor public meeting. In a word, the shop was "opened," and business commenced.



FIRST SHOP IN WHEATBOTTOM.

The secretary had procured his "books," which numbered "one," and cost 1s. 6d. The payment for this book, on August 23rd, is the first item recorded in it ; the second was £2 10s. 0d., secretary's salary ; and the third was 5s. 0d. to John Fox, the bellman.

August 26th was a Saturday, and at the end of this first day, the manager handed £8 to the treasurer. By Saturday night, September 2nd, he had taken other £24 10s. 0d., and in the next four weeks, ending September 9th, September 16th, September 23rd, and September 30th, the sales were £25 0s. 0d., £34 0s. 0d., £35 10s. 0d., and £48 0s. 0d. respectively.

The membership increased weekly, and we here give a second list of those who joined in the latter part of 1865 and the early portion of 1866 :—

1865.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. | 30. | Nicholas Hope, Stonemason, Crook. |
| ,, | 30. | John Robinson, Labourer, Crook. |
| Sept. | 16. | George Newcombe, Blacksmith, Wheatbottom. |
| ,, | 16. | Thomas Swan, Coke Labourer, High Hope Street. |
| ,, | 16. | Francis Birkett, Miner, Newton Cap Cottages. |
| ,, | 16. | James Brady, Coke Drawer, Hope Street. |
| ,, | 16. | John Gill, Token Keeper, Thistleflat. |
| ,, | 30. | William Bland, Coke Burner, High Hope Street. |
| Oct. | 1. | John Morrow, Miner, Brinkburn. |
| ,, | 4. | Christopher Best, Labourer, Crook. |
| ,, | 12. | William Morson, Labourer, Commercial Street. |
| ,, | 17. | William Hutchinson, Miner, Waterhouses. |
| ,, | 17. | William Routh, Shoemaker, Commercial Street. |
| ,, | 18. | Alexander Taylor, Miner, Waterhouses. |
| ,, | 18. | John Ashman, Miner, Waterhouses. |
| ,, | 18. | John Sowerby, Miner, Job's Hill. |
| ,, | 24. | Ralph Stephenson, Miner, Waterhouses. |
| Nov. | 4. | George Burdess, Miner, Waterhouses. |
| ,, | 4. | Thomas Porter, Miner, Waterhouses. |
| ,, | 4. | John Bell, Miner, Waterhouses. |
| ,, | 4. | Peter McKeon, Labourer, Helmington Row. |
| ,, | 24. | Sarah Chismond, Confectioner, Hope Street. |
| ,, | 24. | Thomas Wilson, Gatekeeper, Helmington Row. |
| ,, | 24. | Thomas Johnston, Farmer, Beechburn. |
| ,, | 24. | Christopher Woodhave, Mason, Billy Row. |
| ,, | 24. | Thomas Armstrong, Joiner, Roddymoor. |
| ,, | 24. | Peter Knowles, Nailmaker, Wheatbottom. |
| ,, | 29. | James Nicholson, Labourer, High Hope Street. |
| ,, | 27. | Peter Kelly, Miner, Billy Row. |
| ,, | 28. | Alexander Calvert, Miner, Moravian Street. |
| ,, | 11. | Joseph Tweddle, Miner, Beechburn. |
| ,, | 11. | John Hall, Miner, Beechburn. |
| ,, | 14. | Miles Now, Miner, Tow Law. |
| ,, | 17. | William Lauder, Miner, Beechburn. |
| ,, | 24. | Edward Dunn, Agent, Roddymoor Cottages. |
| ,, | 24. | William Harper, Coke Drawer, Bowden Close. |

1865.
Nov. 25..DAVID WAITING, Coke Burner, High Hope Street.
" 26..WILLIAM AIREY, Platelayer, Commercial Street.
" 27..ROBERT BULMER, Miner, Beechburn.
Dec. 1..JOSEPH BRIGGS, Labourer, Beechburn.
" 1..ROBERT PARKIN, Platelayer, Freeholders' Homes.
" 6..JOHN QUICKMIRE, Coke Drawer, Helmington Row.
" 7..JOHN PURCELL, Miner, Roddymoor Cottages.
" 9..JOHN BOWDEN, Miner, Roddymoor Cottages.
" 9..JOHN TINNING, Miner, Grahamsley.
" 9..THOMAS BROWN, Cabinet Maker, Hope Street.
" 10..GEORGE CLOSE, Miner, White Lea Cottages.
" 15..THOMAS JOHNSTON, Miner, Wooley Terrace.
" 16..WILLIAM BURNHAM, Miner, Wooley Terrace.
" 16..JOHN COWELL, Miner, Wooley Terrace.
" 16..WILLIAM WADE, Miner, Mount Pleasant.
" 16..PETER WADE, Miner, Stanley Colliery.
" 16..CUTHBERT HERON, Miner, Billy Row.
" 18..JAMES WALTON, Miner, Mount Pleasant.
" 19..WILLIAM WESTGARTH, Brakesman, Roddymoor.
" 23..WILLIAM CRAGGS, Husbandman, Billy Row.
" 23..JAMES GLEDHILL, Miner, Grahamsley.
" 26..JAMES TAYLOR, Miner, Kellet's Row.
" 26..JAMES TURNER, Miner, Mount Pleasant.
" 30..ADAM SUDDICK, Miner, Bowden Close.
" 24..EDWARD HUTCHINSON, Blacksmith, Bowden Close.
" 30..ROBERT WILLOUGHBY, Labourer, Crook.

1866.
Feb. 3..EDWARD BROUGHAM, Coke Burner, Brougham's
" 3..HENRY PEARSON, Miner, Billy Row. [Cottages.
" 5..THOMAS HESLOP, Joiner, Stanley Colliery.
" 5..ELIZABETH WEBSTER, Confectioner, Bridge Street.
" 3..JOHN DEWELL, Banksman, High Hope Street.
" 10..ALEXANDER MACK, Blacksmith, Arthur Street.
" 10..DAVISON ROBSON, Miner, Willington.
" 10..MARY GREENER, Widow, Waterhouses.
" 14..JOHN FINLEY, Farmer, Fir Tree.
" 15..JOHN DOYLE, Miner, Rumby Hill.
" 17..THOMAS CARROLL, Labourer, Carroll's Square.
" 17..WILLIAM HENDERSON, Mason, High Hope Street.
" 24..EDWARD BARRON, Miner, Salmon Hall.
" 24..JOSEPH PATTISON, Miner, Mount Pleasant.
" 24..ROBERT SMITH, Miner, White Lea Square.
" 24..ROBERT SMILES, Horsekeeper, Waterhouses.
" 28..THOMAS HILDRETH, Publican, Roddymoor.
" 24..GEORGE JOHNSON, Miner, Fir Tree.
" 24..THOMAS NATTRASS, Miner, Billy Row.
" 24..ROBERT BLAKELOCK, Brakesman, Victoria Street.
" 24..JOHN PICKERING, Miner, Victoria Street.
" 8..WILLIAM MURPHY, Blacksmith, Crook.

1866.

Feb. 10..JANE HUGHILSON, Widow, Beechburn.
" 27..JOHN SNOWDON, Miner, Fir Tree.
" 28..THOMAS BLAND, Labourer, South View.
March 3..MATTHEW STEVENS, Miner, Grahamsley.
" 10..JONATHAN STEVENS, Miner, Grahamsley.
" 10..JOHN HALL, Coke Drawer, Tow Law.
" 10..RICHARD DAY, Miner, Wheatbottom.
" 10..JANE HESLOP, Widow, Beechburn.
" 16..CHARLES HARBURN, Labourer, Hope Street.
" 18..WILLIAM BURNIP, Inspector, Wheatbottom.
" 19..CHRISTOPHER VICKERS, Miner, Oakenshaw.
" 19..JOHN COATES, Brakesman, Hope Street.
" 19..BENJAMIN COATES, Blacksmith, Hope Street.
" 19..JOHN HALL, Coke Drawer, Bank Foot.
" 19..PATRICK STEEL, Coke Drawer, Thistleflat.
" 24..JOHN BAINES, Waggonman, Job's Hill.
" 24..CALEB KIDD, Coke Drawer, Waterhouses.
" 24..WILLIAM SHARP, Coke Drawer, Stanley.
" 24..HENRY BIRD, Miner, Woodifield.
" 17..JOHN ROBINSON, Platelayer, Helmington Row.
" 17..HENRY BURROWS, Labourer, Bridge Street.
" 17..CHARLES MOSES, Labourer, Kellet's Row.
" 17..ANN MOSES, Widow, Woodifield Cottages.
" 31..RICHARD OLIVER, Labourer, Crook.
April 4..GEORGE ROBSON, Blacksmith, Beechburn.
" 10..JOSEPH GALLEY, Miner, Beechburn.
" 9..HUMPHREY ERRINGTON, Miner, Waterhouses.
" 16..PETER BRADY, Coke Drawer, Thistleflat.
" 16..WILLIAM WILSON, Farmer, Bowden Close.
" 16..JOHN GREEN, Quarryman, Crook.
" 17..THOMAS JOHNSTON, Miner, Sunniside Cottages.
" 17..JOSEPH MACNAY, Miner, Waterhouses.
" 24..JAMES QUICKMIRE, Coke Drawer, Helmington Row.
" 24..JOHN DODD, Miner, Mount Pleasant.
" 24..JOHN TAYLOR, Horseman, Sunnybrow.
" 24..RICHARD SAVILLE, Mason, Hope Street.
" 24..LUKE RICHARDSON, Miner, Beechburn.
" 24..THOMAS SHAW, Miner, Bowden Close.
May 10..ROBERT ROBSON, Miner, Wooley.
" 20..THOMAS GRAINGER, Coke Drawer, Roddymoor.
" 19..THOMAS SURTEES, Miner, Mount Pleasant.
" 19..JOHN BRIGGS, Miner, Waterhouses.
" 19..JAMES FIELDING, Miner, Elm Park Terrace.
June 16..WILLIAM MORTON, Miner, Bowden Close.
" 18..WILLIAM TAYLOR, Miner, Grahamsley.
" 19..JOHN JACKSON, Farmer, Waterhouses.
" 23..WILLIAM COLLINGWOOD, Miner, Mount Pleasant.
" 30..WILLIAM FLEMING, Miner, Mount Pleasant.
" 30..JAMES SMITH, Miner, Stanley.

## Chapter IV.

THE committee meetings were now held in the shop, and at the first one, on August 29th, the progress made was evidently satisfactory, for it was agreed to engage another man for the shop—

> "For the purpose of soliciting orders, delivering goods, assisting in shop, etc., etc."

Already a lad had been a helper at the opening effort, in one who is to this day a valued employee of the Store, viz., Mr. John James Pedelty. He was then only eleven years of age, and his engagement with the Society was fixed on September 6th, when it was decided that—

> "Mr. Pedelty's boy be paid at the rate of 5 shillings per week."

The choice of the committee fell on Mr. John Parkinson to fill the new position created in the shop. He hailed from Shildon, and afterwards became the first manager of the branch store at Waterhouses.

In September the first horse for the Society's use was purchased. It cost £8, and its chief characteristic was "tiredness," even down a bank with only an empty cart attached. A "full-sized horse sheet" was also bought, so that whatever other drawbacks our first steed possessed, it was nevertheless admitted to be a full-sized animal. The committee soon got tired of this horse, and it was decided to sell it for £3 15s. 0d., or "Horse and Back Collar for £4 0s. 0d." Another horse was purchased at a sale for £16 15s. 0d., and this bargain got the committee into hot water at the first general meeting of members, when they were severely criticised "for paying such an abnormal price."

JOHN PARKINSON,
Late Manager
Waterhouses Branch.

JOHN JAMES PEDELTY,
Central Drapery Manager.
50 Years' Service.

Other items of expense at the opening period included 1s. 4d. for six scoops ; 9d. for three bowls ; and 15s. 6d. for knives and a saw. Flour bags were bought from George Belt and Son, Newcastle-on-Tyne, a firm with whom the Society still trades. The first supplies of flour came from Mr. Walter Davison, and also from Mr. John Hull, Willington. Tea, sugar, rice, tapioca, and other goods were supplied by Mr. William Sykes and Mr. Silas Kent, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

At the first committee meeting in the shop, those present were—

Mr. Richard Wilkinson, *Chairman.*
Mr. Wm. Harrison.
Mr. T. Pedelty.
Mr. Jos. Jackson.
Mr. John Robinson.
Mr. Wm. Willoughby.
Mr. T. Groves.
Mr. Isaac Wilson.
Mr. John Siddle, *Secretary.*

At this meeting, Mr. John Hall was elected to the committee in the place of Mr. Joseph Ritson. The question of the repayment of share capital to members leaving the district was settled as follows :—

" That the committee buy the share or shares of any Shareholder removing to a distance of 6½ miles from the Store, provided that they wish to sell their share or shares, on the following conditions :—

" 1. That the Shareholders give to the Secretary two weeks' notice in writing, the same to be laid before the Committee to decide thereon.

" 2. That the Committee buy the share or shares of only one Shareholder every two weeks ; if more than one Shareholder apply, the first to be considered will be the first applicant.

" 3. That the Committee pay the full value of the share or shares."

The inadequacy of the premises to meet the growing trade was soon apparent, and it was also felt that a more central situation should be secured. The committee decided—

> "That Mr. Hayton call on Mr. Proud to enquire after Mr. Elliott's shop."

This latter place was in the Market Place, where Miss Lowther's shop now stands. The premises were not secured, and, a fortnight later, on October 25th, other negotiations had taken place, and it was agreed—

> "That Mrs. Armstrong's shop be taken by this company at the yearly rent of £30, and a lease of 5 years to be got on the premises, if possible ; if the lease cannot be got, the committee to be guided by circumstances. The committee also had to decide about the fixtures."

No trouble occurred in the negotiation for this shop, and the Society moved its store from Wheatbottom to its new home in Hope Street—where Mr. J. W. Parkin's shop now stands, and business commenced on November 27th.

The new premises were a great improvement. The situation was very central, but later the demand for still larger premises resulted in other sites being looked after, until the present spot in North Terrace was obtained.

The Hope Street shop was fairly commodious. A useful warehouse was in the rear, and there was also a stable in the yard. The room above the warehouse was used as a stock-room. Here also the committee held their meetings. The mode of access was by ladder, and a notice was hung up which read—

> "This ladder, when not in use, to be drawn up and fastened to the ceiling."

For the use of the committee, six chairs and two forms were provided.

The move from Wheatbottom to Hope Street was not altogether a unanimous one, and at the first meeting in the Hope Street shop, Mr. Isaac Wilson resigned his position on the committee. The vacancy was allotted to Mr. Thomas Pearson, a joiner, who continued for

SECOND SHOP IN HOPE STREET.

many years to have a connection with the Society. Some of his family are still resident in the town, and one son, his namesake, Thomas, was for many years employed in the stores.

The stock of goods was fairly large for an effort only three months old. It was insured for £300, Mr. Cowan being the insurance agent.

Mr. Thomas Swan and Mr. Joseph Jopling were appointed auditors, and the first balance sheet was issued on December 30th. It covered a period of eighteen weeks, and the sales were £1,155 10s. 0d. in cash and £11 5s. 1d. outstanding, giving an average of £64 16s. 5d. a week. The capital was £121 0s. 0d., on which interest of £3 17s. 0d. was paid. The stock was

valued at £225 13s. 1½d., and the cash in hand was £280 12s. 1d.; but against this there was owing to merchants for goods, £342 0s. 1½d. A profit of £71 15s. 5½d. remained after all expenses had been met, and a dividend of 1s. 9d. in the £ was declared on the purchases, £682 4s. 6d. It will be noted that dividend was not paid at this period on all goods sold by the Society.

We give a copy of the first balance sheet, which was written by Mr. Swan, and read out to the general meeting of members. There were no printed copies of it.

## No. 1 BALANCE SHEET

CROOK AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CO-OPERATIVE CORN

Ending December

DR.

| PAYMENTS. | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cash for Groceries and Provisions | 874 | 10 | 10 |
| Fixed Stock | 63 | 12 | 7 |
| Officers' and Servants' Salaries | 45 | 10 | 0 |
| Carriage of Goods | 9 | 5 | 6½ |
| Shop-paper, Stamps, Stationery, and Tracts | 10 | 5 | 4½ |
| Horse Provender | 13 | 19 | 11 |
| Horse Hire | 2 | 2 | 0½ |
| Working Expenses | 2 | 2 | 8 |
| Poor Rate, 2/6; Shop Rent, 80/– | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Railway Fares | 1 | 4 | 4½ |
| Printing, 17/4; Shop Oil and Incidentals, 21/1 | 1 | 18 | 5 |
| Shop License | 0 | 16 | 9½ |
| Rent for the use of the Mechanics' Hall | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| Balance of Cash in hand | 280 | 12 | 1 |
| | £1,311 | 18 | 1½ |

| LIABILITIES. | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Members' Claims on Paid-up Shares | 121 | 0 | 0 |
| Interest on Capital | 3 | 17 | 0 |
| Invoice Account | 342 | 0 | 1½ |
| Shop Rent Due | 3 | 7 | 3½ |
| Gas | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Reserve Fund | 38 | 13 | 0 |
| Balance of Profit | 71 | 15 | 5½ |
| | £581 | 2 | 10½ |

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Depreciation of Fixed Stock, viz., 2½ per cent. on £63 12s. 7d. | 1 | 11 | 9¾ |
| Dividend on Members' Purchases, viz., £682 4s. 6d., at 1/9 per pound | 59 | 13 | 11 |
| Balance to carry forward | 10 | 9 | 8¾ |
| | £71 | 15 | 5½ |

for the first 18 weeks of the
MILL, FLOUR AND PROVISION SOCIETY LIMITED,
30th, 1865.

CR.

RECEIPTS.

| August 23rd. | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| By Cash on hand and in the Bank .. .. | 67 | 10 | 1 |
| Cash for Groceries and Provisions .. .. | 1155 | 10 | 0 |
| Contributions of Members .. .. .. .. | 66 | 14 | 4 |
| Entrance Fees and Cards .. .. .. .. | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| Discount .. .. .. .. .. .. | 13 | 2 | 3½ |
| Interest from the Bank .. .. .. .. | 0 | 17 | 8 |
| Transfers due .. .. .. .. .. | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | £1,311 | 18 | 1½ |

ASSETS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Groceries and Provisions in Stock .. .. | 225 | 13 | 1½ |
| Fixed Stock .. .. .. .. .. | 63 | 12 | 7 |
| Cash to receive .. .. .. .. .. | 11 | 5 | 1 |
| Balance in hand .. .. .. .. .. | 280 | 12 | 1 |
| | £581 | 2 | 10½ |
| | £ | s. | d. |
| By Balance of Profit .. .. .. .. | 71 | 15 | 5½ |
| | £71 | 15 | 5½ |

*Auditors* { JOSEPH JOPLING.
THOMAS SWAN.

*Secretary:* JOHN SIDDLE.

## Chapter V.

TOWARDS the back end of 1865, and in the early part of 1866, the committee were continually harassed with the question of the completion of the purchase of the land for the Mill, and their trouble in this respect may have been responsible for a gradual dislike of the mill project, coupled, of course, with the success which was attending the Store.

The purchase money was fixed at £65, but we only have evidence of £60 4s. 6d. being paid, and this payment was made in March, 1866. Previous to this transaction, the committee had decided, on January 24th—

> "That, with the approval of the General Meeting, the land be sold to the highest bidder."

The general meeting approved this recommendation, and it was decided to advertise the land in the *Durham Chronicle*, and also by hand-bills. Innumerable motions were passed touching on the question of the land and the deeds, deputation after deputation being appointed to interview Mr. Trotter on the matter. June 27th was reached before progress was recorded to enable a definite arrangement for the sale. The arrangements were :—

> "The land was to be sold in one lot or in lots to suit purchasers.
>
> "The reserve was fixed at £80, and Mr. Briggs was elected to put in this bid for the Society.
>
> "30 days was to be allowed for the completion of the sale of the land if it was sold."

Property sales then were accompanied by a liberal distribution of "free drinks," and Mr. T. Pedelty was appointed—

> "To get grog, and serve it out according to necessity."

The land was eventually sold to Dr. Winship for £77, a price which would leave the Society somewhat on the losing side of the deal, for, in addition to the £60 4s. 6d. paid for the land, there was also paid £5 18s. 0d. expenses for attending the sale; £14 19s. 0d. to Mr. Trotter for agreements, etc.; and £10 10s. 0d. to Mr. Joseph Hackworth for plan of Mill, etc. With the payment of these accounts the Mill effort was ended, and the attention of the committee was wholly given to the development of the Store.

Tracing our steps back again for a perusal of the Store's transactions, we find that at the New Year of 1866, Mr. Hayton and Mr. Parkinson each received an advance of 2s. weekly.

The buying question then, even as has happened in more recent years, was an item for considerable discussion, and on January 10th, it was decided—

> "That one member of the committee accompany the manager to Newcastle once a quarter in rotation as they stand in the book."

This was rescinded on January 17th, when it was carried—

> "That Thos. Pedelty, Jos. Jackson, and Wm. Bland be the three appointed to accompany Mr. Hayton to Newcastle, one every month for three months; to arrange among themselves as to which goes first."

A currant-cleaning machine was bought, and the insurance of the stock increased to £500. The horse also was insured for £50.

Mr. William Airey was elected to the committee on January 17th, and Mr. Joseph Briggs was elected on January 24th.

The first general meeting was held on February 6th, when it was decided—

> "That the profit of £59 13s. 11d. should be left in the Society for the first six months; the dividend due to each member to be placed in their books."

Mr. J. Parkinson was paid two shillings for attending the door at the general meeting.

Another assistant was engaged in Mr. Robert Baker, who came from Sunderland. His parents resided at Bradley Hall, and he remained with the Society for about three years, in the course of which he married Miss Westgarth, a daughter of Mr. Fred. Westgarth, Red House Farm, Roddymoor.

Presumably some trouble had been caused through "drink" at some meeting, for on February 7th, it was carried—

> "That no intoxicated member be allowed to enter any Committee, General, or Special Meeting, and that the chairman be authorised to order any such member out."

The auditors' salaries were fixed at £1 10s. 0d. each per annum, and the treasurer was granted £2 as working expenses.

A move was made to purchase the premises, but eventually the matter was left in abeyance. A suggestion to take out a "wine license" was also discussed, and laid aside for twelve months.

On April 11th, Mr. John Hall was appointed auditor, in place of Mr. Jopling, and the vacancy on the committee was filled by Mr. John Gill.

The secretary was instructed to write to—

> "Gateshead, Rochdale, and Sunderland, for information respecting the salaries of the committee."

There is no record of the answers received, which must have proved interesting reading.

June 30th, 1866, saw the completion of the second half-year's working, and the figures on the balance sheet show an increase in the sales of 100 per cent. The sales totalled £3,287 17s. 9d., an average of £126 9s. 2d. a week. A dividend of 1s 6d. in the £ was declared on members' purchases of £2,355.

The second general meeting was held in Mr. Botham's "Sun Inn." Mr. William Bland presided, and there were fifty-six members present. Certainly not a large number, but they made themselves heard, and at times created uproar enough for five hundred and sixty persons. Fault was found about one item; then somebody discovered something else to grumble at; and at last things became so "merry and bright," that coats were thrown off on to the floor, and a free fight ensued. Forms, sticks, and fists were freely used, and, generally speaking, those on the outside of the room were the only ones to escape some blows. The business was in the end got through. The committee were elected; the secretary was re-appointed at a salary of £8, and the treasurer was also re-appointed and advanced £1.

Perhaps the chief point on which trouble was created hinged on the question as to who should manage the Store. Mr. Hayton was manager, and he had his friends, whilst there were also present a fairly good number who were anxious to promote Mr. John Parkinson to the position. A vote was demanded, when Mr. Hayton was successful in keeping his place by a majority of fourteen. The committee were given power to buy all goods or send to market whom they thought proper, and at their first meeting they again placed the buying in the hands of Mr. Hayton.

At this meeting they also considered an application from all the employees (!) for an advance of wages, and this was met by a grant of one shilling each per week to J. Parkinson and J. Pedelty.

## Chapter VI.

DURING the first few years the committee were pretty regular helpers in the shop. Scarcely a day passed but Mr. Thomas Pedelty was engaged in some work, and the other members of committee were mostly present on Saturdays. Mr. John Coates was specially appointed to assist in writing up the ledger accounts, whilst Mr. Benj. Coates and Mr. Thomas Armstrong were two who, on alternate Saturdays, took charge of the selling of boots and shoes, until a cobbler, Mr. W. Elgie, was employed.

1866.—On August 31st, the shop was closed, for the Agricultural Show—at that time an important show in the county—was being held ; and the Society also made a grant of five shillings to the show funds.

The next item of importance proved one of the most telling steps in the giant strides the Society was making ; This hung on the decision to introduce a clerk ; and, on October 8th, it was moved by Mr. Henry Bowes, and seconded by Mr. William Henderson :—

> " That William Burnip have the appointment of clerk, at a salary of twenty-six shillings per week."

This appointment was really directly due to the trouble which had ensued at the General Meeting ; trouble which, moreover, had caused a want of confidence to permeate the members. The need was felt for some person to be found in whom trust could be satisfactorily placed. The Waterhouses representatives, Mr. Wm. Pinkney, Mr. Henry Bowes, and Mr. Thos. Armstrong, announced to their Crook friends that they had the man who could redeem the situation. " Who was he ?" they were asked. " William Burnip, the token keeper," was the reply ; and all agreed he was to be the solution

William Burnip,
Past Secretary and Manager,
1866 to 1906.

to the problem, provided, of course, he was willing to accept the position. Mr. Burnip was interviewed, and, after some hesitation, he accepted the situation, following advice from his master at the colliery, Mr. Thomas Douglas, who also assured him his place on the works would be kept open for him in case he was not satisfied with his new sphere of work.

It might also be mentioned that the appointment was further enhanced by the unique move on the part of the committee to petition all the members at Waterhouses to assist in the securing of Mr. Burnip for the Stores; and this met with a ready response and unanimity.

Thus was introduced one who, year in and year out, proved an incomparable guiding hand. We leave a more personal description and tribute to a later portion of our book.

Practically coincident with the entry of Mr. Burnip was the severance of Mr. John Siddle's connection with the Society—at any rate as secretary—for, from October 24th, the minutes of the meetings are all in the writing of Mr. Burnip.

The duties which devolved on Mr. Siddle, as the first secretary, would, without doubt, be of an extremely arduous nature, and it must be admitted he had done much useful work. He did not continue long to have any great connection with the Society after vacating the secretarial office, though he occupied a seat on the committee for a time, and also was appointed, with others, to revise the rules.

On Mr. Burnip's appointment, the bond of his father, Mr. Wm. Burnip, senior, was accepted; Mr. John Coates and Mr. J. Siddle having to see that the same was drawn up in proper order.

Mr. John Coates, Mr. Wm. Bland, and Mr. T. Pedelty were appointed to "put the clerk into his proper place and show him his proper duties." Part of his work was to weigh every package of goods before it was opened,

and he also had to check every bill for goods sold, as it was made out by the shopman. On October 24th Mr. Burnip first sat as secretary, though there is no record of his appointment to that post. It is noticeable that the records of the meetings' proceedings are more numerous, and, even if it is of a very ordinary transaction, it may be of interest to give the first minute written by the new secretary, which was :—

> " 1st Resolution.—Moved by Wm. Burnip, senior, seconded by Thomas Pearson, that 3 cwt. of pale soap and 3 cwt. of mottled soap be ordered of Silas Kent."

Part of the shop was fitted as an office by Mr. Thos. Brown, Hope Street, for the use of the clerk ; and one of Mr. Burnip's first duties was to carry out the instruction of the committee, calling a special general meeting of the members, on November 14th, to consider the suggested alteration of the rules. When the day arrived, less than one-third of the members attended, and, as a result, the meeting was adjourned to November 20th, when the required changes were agreed to, and it was decided that the following should sign the application to the Registrar :—

Sergt. Greathead.
P.C. John Bell.
Henry Nicholson.
Adam Suddick.
Wm. Taylor.
John Siddle.
Wm. Bland.

An effort was also made towards spreading more enlightenment on the value of co-operation among the working-class population in the district, and five hundred tracts and three hundred copies of the *Co-operator* were distributed. The latter was a journal which chronicled the doings of co-operative societies, more especially touching on those in Yorkshire and Lancashire. It was the entire production of working-men, and was started

in 1860 as a penny monthly, but was afterwards issued weekly. It was finally absorbed by the present *Co-operative News*, which has a useful circulation in co-operative circles.

On December 26th Mr. Benjamin Coates was elected to the committee in the place of Mr. Wm. Henderson. Another appointment to the committee, in Mr. Thomas Proudfoot, was made on January 16th, 1867.

1867.—At the general meeting on February 5th it was decided to purchase a safe to contain the documents of the Society, which hitherto had been in the care of Mr. Wm. Bland. Mr. John Buston, Mr. T. Swan, Mr. A. Suddick, and Mr. T. Armstrong were appointed by the members to make a " thorough examination of all the books in the Society's business.

Running towards the summer months of 1867, an undercurrent of dissatisfaction was very prevalent among the committee, and the attendance at the meetings went form bad to worse ; in fact, on May 15th, 22nd, and 29th, and June 4th, no business was done, " on account of not having a quorum."

The committee exercised the power which they held to deal with such a state of affairs, and on June 19th Mr. John Dewell, Mr. John Thistlewaite, and Mr. Thomas Nattrass were added to the committee.

It had been fixed that the Annual General Meeting of the Society should be held in every August, and at such meetings the officers for the year were to be elected. At the meeting on August 6th, among other appointments was that of Mr. Wm. Burnip, who was a unanimous selection for the secretarial office.

The balance sheet showed the sales to have increased from £4,185 3s. 0d. to £4,710 6s. 1½d., and a dividend of 1s. 5d. in the £ was declared on purchases of £3,773. No dividend was paid on sugar, which was sold at 4½d. per pound. Flour was then selling at 2s. 6d. per stone, but the manager had definite instructions that the price of

this necessary foodstuff must never exceed that charged at " other shops in the neighbourhood."

On August 21st it was decided that " John James Pedelty be bound as an apprentice," and Mr. Bland, Mr. T. Pedelty, and Mr. Hayton had to visit Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson to have the indentures properly filled up. The latter gentleman was the village school-master, and lived at the public-house known as the " Wheatbottom Inn." He was recognised as the village solicitor, and his advice was often sought.

For the period 1868 to 1870 there is an absence of any written record. This is perhaps unfortunate, as they were years full of momentous happenings.

It was during this time that the Society lost the services of their manager, Mr. Hayton. His health was not of the best, and he finally developed an illness which took him away from earthly toils and pleasures in 1868.

During his illness the board of management allowed him a sum of 10s. weekly. He is said to have been a man of more than average ability, and was helpful in assisting the Society over many of the troublesome items which again and again cropped up.

His absence from work was perhaps mainly responsible for bringing out the versatile ability of Mr. Burnip. The committee placed every confidence in him, and entrusted the most onerous duties to him ; and at Mr. Hayton's death he was appointed to hold the dual office of manager and secretary.

Other assistants were engaged during these years, amongst whom were Mr. George Cloustone, Mr. Thomas Simpson, and Mr. Robert Clement. The former were grocery hands, whilst Mr. Clement was cartman and horse-keeper.

The gradual success the Society was meeting with was evidently not to the liking of the local tradesmen. They began to look somewhat askance at a movement which

already promised well, and must inevitably find its way to the hearts of more of the working classes.

The reason for the meetings taking place at the "Sun" Inn, together with a general survey of the Society's affairs, may be gleaned from the following report, sent by Mr. Wm. Burnip to the *Co-operator,*" 16th September, 1867 :—

"CROOK.—The members held their fourth half-yearly meeting on Tuesday evening, August 6th, in the "Sun" Inn. With regard to your suggestion about us holding the general meetings in a public-house, I may say that many of the members are bitterly opposed to holding the meeting there ; but, owing to the opposition the Store meets with in Crook, from the tradesmen and others, they could not get another place. The Messrs. Pease built a British School in Crook, and I wrote to the committee to see if we could hold our meetings there, but I am sorry to say, we did not succeed. I am happy to say that the next meeting will probably be held in the Wesleyan School-room, Crook. Mr. Wm. Bland having been duly elected to the chair, his first business was to call upon the auditors to read the report, who were able to congratulate the Society on its present position, it having progressed so favourably during the past half-year. The balance sheet was then read, from which it appears that the receipts during the half-year from all sources were £5,067 2s. 4½d., and, after paying or providing for the expense of management, etc., there was a balance remaining of £283 15s. 11d., being the net profit for the half-year ; and after allowing £5 for depreciation of fixed stock, £11 10s. 10d. to go to the reserve fund, left a balance of £267 5s. 1d. to be divided among the members, allowing a dividend of 1s. 5d. in the £ on all purchases excepting sugar. The balance sheet having been adopted, the remainder of the business was the election of officers for the ensuing year ; and, after discussing some very important points in connection with the Store, the members separated, highly delighted

with the proceedings of the evening, and each determined to help forward the co-operative movement in Crook.—WM. BURNIP, secretary."

In the first half of the year 1868, draperies were sold for the first time. The sales of groceries, provisions, and draperies totalled £4,846 12s. 1½d., and a dividend of 1s. 6d. in the £ was paid. The sales for the next half-year reached £5,008 8s. 5¼d., and the dividend was again 1s. 6d. In this session there was also introduced, for the first time, a Tea Party among the members. These old-time events will come back to our older members as red-letter epochs. They were generally the outstanding item of each particular year, and a failure to be present was always a matter of regret. The receipts at the first party totalled £13 8s. 7d., so that a fairly big gathering must have assembled.

The balance sheets continued to consist of a very simple statement of accounts. They occupied one side of the paper only, and were printed at " Hardy's Machine and General Printing Works, Wilson Street (opposite the Railway Station)."

In the June and December half-years for 1869, a dividend of 1s. 9d. was declared for each period. A Tea Party was again held, and £15 12s. 11½d. was taken at the door.

In June, 1870, the dividend dropped to 1s. 6d., but the following half-year saw a big jump to 1s. 10d. But the half-year ending December, 1870, was altogether a big period. The old cry of "Come over and help us!" was heard. It was the voice of the Waterhouses people clamouring for a shop nearer their own door-steps. From the commencement of the movement in Crook there had always been a connection with the workers living on the banks overlooking the Deerness. It was a link forged, in all probability, by the intercourse of employees engaged at Pease and Partners' several works and collieries at each side of the hill. The idea also

received considerable impetus from an appeal made by the Durham Society to take over the Waterhouses district.

Customers at Waterhouses were reached by cart. Between the deliveries, the great distance to Crook was a drawback to many other purchases being made; although many did regularly make the journey. Waterhouses already had representatives on the committee, among whom were Mr. Henry Bowes, Mr. Thomas Armstrong, Mr. John Ashman, and Mr. Wm. Pinkney. The former was a sufficiently strong and powerful personality to overcome any objections, if any were raised, to the launching out into a new stream of co-operation travel. It was a venture into then almost unknown ground, which might have appalled others of a later stage, but our pioneers were far-seeing men who gazed not at imaginary obstacles. They looked ahead and went straight ahead; and, though finances were not too strong, yet an establishment was arranged for and business opened out at Waterhouses, as at Crook, in a very humble way, in the latter part of 1870. A shop in Hamilton Row was obtained from Mr. Philip Bonner. It stood opposite the present Workmen's Club, and is now a private residence.

Mr. John Parkinson, who had become a popular employee with both management and customers, was the first manager appointed to this, the Society's first branch, and he resided with his wife in the house connected with the shop.

The branch may be said to have struck a better patch for a start than its parent had done in its first days. There was plenty of business doing right from the opening day, and by the end of the half-year the sales totalled £1,981 16s. 4d., an average of £76 4s. 6d. per week.

Commencing this branch reduced the work at the Central shop, and Mr. George Cloustone, Mr. Thomas Simpson, and Mr. John J. Pedelty had to go over to Waterhouses to assist Mr. Parkinson. They went in

GEORGE PARKINSON,
Manager Waterhouses Branch.
44 Years' Service.

turns, one week at a time, and each man, when at Waterhouses, was given 2s. 6d. extra to his usual weekly wage. And there was also another assistant employed, at a salary of 2s. 6d. per week. This was Mrs. Parkinson, who had to assist her husband when necessary. This system of help from the Crook side was in vogue for some twelve months, and then George Parkinson, nephew of the manager, was appointed apprentice.

His indentures were signed on January 1st, 1872, and his wages were fixed at 10s., 12s., 14s., and 16s. for each of his first four years respectively. The apprentice of then is to-day the respected manager of the Waterhouses Stores.

The following particulars appeared in the *Co-operator* on August 27th, 1870. They present an interesting view of the Society's affairs as they stood at this period. From our reading of it we can imagine it to be a record of a gathering, full of confidence in the future of the Society's work—confidence that the succeeding years soon justified :—

"CO-OPERATION AT CROOK.

"'Pitmen take kindly to co-operation,' remarked a facetious friend, when speaking of the rapid growth of the movement in the County of Durham. A flying visit to Crook confirms the statement. Five years ago Co-operation there was in embryo ; now it is enjoying a vigorous and healthy existence, approaching maturity, and is the parent of one promising branch store. The Annual Festival was held on Saturday, August 13th, in the Mechanics' Hall—a large building—which was more than once filled at the tea tables. Afterwards a free meeting took place, under the presidency of Mr. John Howie, of Bishop Auckland, a firm friend of temperance, co-operation, and kindred movements. A letter was read from Mr. John Kellett (an employer), who had been invited to preside, but was not well enough. Mr. Kellett wrote :—'Your institution has my best wishes

for its success. "Union is strength." I hope you will go on and prosper.' The chairman spoke briefly of the benefits of co-operation, commended the *Co-operator*, and then called upon its editor, who gave two short addresses on the objects and advantages of association for distributive and productive purposes. There was a hearty response to his protest against adulteration of our children's blood by Act of Parliament, and the waste of money and health in the use of intoxicating drink and tobacco. Temperance melodies enlivened the meeting, so that the proceedings were very enjoyable. Mr. Burnip (the secretary) spoke of co-operation as a lever that would raise the working class from poverty to independence. So far we had only learned the A B C of the system; but with sobriety, industry, and integrity, we should be soon able to enter upon Productive Co-operation. The balance sheet for the half-year, read by one of the auditors, showed the capital to be £1,097; sales, £7,139; profit, £463; dividend, 1s. 6d. The business has increased very rapidly during the last three years. There is a reserve fund; and the stock has been amply depreciated. Credit is allowed to members, it being almost a necessity, in consequence of the long intervals between the payment of wages. We suggested the desirability of giving dividend to non-members, and forming an educational fund. Our visit, though brief, was made pleasant by the kindness of many friends."

Over six hundred members were present at this festival, and the editor referred to in the report was Mr. Henry Pitman, a brother of Sir Isaac Pitman, the famous inventor of "Pitman's Shorthand."

1871.—One of the members elected to the committee in 1870 was Mr. W. Lobley. In the following January he left the board to commence in the shop at 16s. per week. He continued at the Store for a good number of years as traveller, and afterwards emigrated to Australia. Mr. Michael Reed was appointed to the committee in the place of Mr. Lobley.

Mr. Wm. Bland presided over the February General Meeting, when it was carried that every member had to leave 5s. of their dividend in the society. The committee were " thanked " for their services.

On February 8th the committee decided to grant the general manager, Mr. W. Burnip, free gas, water, and coals.

Over the hill the increasing trade demanded larger premises as soon as possible, and, in March, Mr. Henry Bowes was empowered to look after securing a suitable place for the proposed new store, which it had been decided had to be erected at Waterhouses. To meet the cost, the secretary was instructed to interview Messrs. Backhouse and Co.'s manager, to ascertain if the money could be borrowed at 5 per cent. The Society, however, had in the end sufficient current cash of its own to finance the venture.

Land was secured from Viscount Boyne. This was a site in Russell Street, of four hundred and forty square yards, and a lease of ninety-nine years, at a ground rent of £3 13s. 4d., was drawn up in 1872. The signatures to the lease on behalf of the Society were :—Joseph Briggs, Page Bank, Inspector ; William Bland, Thomas Swan, and John Hutchinson, coke inspectors, all of Crook ; John Coates, brakesman, Thomas Pearson, joiner, and Thomas Groves, labourer, all of Crook ; Henry Bowes, inspector, and Michael Burrell, miner, both of Waterhouses ; William Heslop, blacksmith, Alexander French, inspector, and William Taylor, miner, all of Grahamsley.

To Mr. Alexander French was given the work of preparing the specifications and plans ; and shortly afterwards, the tender of Mr. John Hare and Mr. Richard Bousfield was accepted to erect the premises at a cost of £435, and an additional £34 for extra inside work. Mr. George Lax, Crook, was given the painting work to carry out. The building was not erected very quickly, and May, 1872, was reached before it was possible to have the opening ceremony performed. This event took place

COMMITTEE AND OFFICIALS, 1871.

*Standing*—T. Groves, John Hutchinson, Thomas Swan, Henry Bowes, John Coates, John Parkinson, William Burnip, Joseph Briggs.
*Sitting*—William Taylor, William Bland, Thomas Pearson, Thomas Pedelty, Alexander French.

on May 4th, which, naturally enough, was a great day among our Waterhouses friends.

We have not been able to find any records of the proceedings of this important occasion, but we understand that Mr. John Howie, a well-known temperance missionary at Bishop Auckland, was the gentleman who declared the premises open. We do know definitely that the tea was a tremendous success.

On April 26th the question of giving an occasional holiday to the employees was considered, and it was determined :—

"That the servants of the Store have a half-day holiday every fortnight on Wednesday."

In April, also, the Society made a grant of £1, to be sent to the secretary of the Chester-le-Street Store :—

"For the treasurer of the Wholesale Store in the North of England."

In June it was carried :—

"Ten shillings be given to the *Co-operator* Fund, and that we allow our name to be on the committee."

At the August General Meeting the salaries of the auditors were raised to £2 10s. 0d. each per annum. The Tea Party was again arranged, and a "Mixed Entertainment" was added.

For the first time a 2s. dividend was declared, and the sales had reached the five-figure mark, £11,302 0s. 0d.

Another branch of trading was introduced on August 9th, in the shape of ready-made boots and shoes, and extra shelving was put into the shop to admit of the new stock.

In November the Society gave its first order for goods—three tierces of crystal sugar at 40s. 3d.—to the Manchester Co-operative Wholesale Society. Two months later we note the first mention of the Newcastle Co-operative Wholesale Society, where an order was sent for three bags of rice. Other orders subsequently were given pretty frequently, although the Society did not become actual members until many years later, in 1886.

## Chapter VII.

### 1872.

WE have all probably many memories of the large wall almanacks which were given away yearly, one to each customer, by co-operative stores and private tradesmen alike, and our own first gift in this line was in January, when seven hundred almanacs, costing £7 7s. 0d., were given away.

Our neighbouring Society, at Willington, at this time had been established, and some of our members resident in that district were desirous of joining in the new movement. Their request to be allowed to withdraw from our Society met with a fair consideration, and, on January 10th, it was decided :—

> "That the Willington members have their money out of the Store on application."

At the February General Meeting it was decided to again have the Rules altered, and Mr. Thomas Armstrong, Mr. James Smith, Mr. Wm. Robinson, Mr. James Horn, Mr. Wm. Todd, and Mr. John Moore were elected from amongst the members present to assist the committee in the work of revision. The alterations suggested were placed before a special meeting on March 25th. One change proposed was to have in the Society's registered name, "General Dealers and Manufacturers," in place of "Grocery, Provision, and Millers." This idea was not acceptable, and was rejected by the meeting.

Mr. Robert Longstaff left the district in March, and his place on the committee was allotted to Mr. William Heslop.

There was no very definite time fixed for the opening and closing of the shop, yet for the first few years it was

usual to carry on business from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., excepting on Saturdays, when the hours were 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. There was, further, no half-day holiday. The latter was remedied, as has been mentioned, in April, 1871, and the larger question of the general opening and closing hours was considered in February, 1872, when it was decided to open at 8 a.m., and to close every night, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 7 p.m., and on Saturdays at 9 p.m. The shop also had to close every day for dinner from 12 to 1 p.m. Further, on Saturdays, all the employees had to have their teas in the Stores, at their own expense. With regard to the cartmen, any hours they worked in excess of fifty-four hours per week had to be paid for as overtime.

1872.—Dividends were usually paid at this time on two Saturdays, from 4 to 6 p.m., but in February, 1872, it was fixed at 4 to 7, and arrangements were also made to pay dividend at Waterhouses for the first time. Tuesday was fixed for the visit to Waterhouses, and this method continues to this day. Mr. John Whitfield, who is still with the Society as flour warehouseman at Waterhouses, was engaged on April 4th, as warehouseman, at 24s. per week.

Mr. Joseph Briggs, who had been a useful member of the committee, left the district in April.

Cheapness or quality in boots was an item raised in committee, and it was settled :—

"To have no more low-priced boots."

On June 19th we find another very important appointment was made, when Mr. Thomas Burnip, a younger brother of Mr. William Burnip, was engaged for the office, at a salary of 20s. per week for a three months' trial. The engagement was continued, and he is still happily working with us, now in the highest position in the clerical department as secretary ; and who can say what has been his worth to the Society ?

Mr. John Coates, who had been equally valuable both as an auditor and as a member of the committee, left the

THOMAS BURNIP,
Present Secretary.
43 Years' Service.

district for Australia, where he still resides, being now eighty-four years of age. He is a brother of Mr. Benjamin Coates, who still takes every interest in the Society's welfare, and is a resident at Langley Moor.

In this year the Society followed up their purchases from the Wholesale Society by forwarding £1 towards the Co-operative Congress Board, which to-day we know better as the Co-operative Union. This grant later became one of £5 every half-year, until a more definite scale was arranged among the co-operative societies who are members of the Union.

A Tea Party was held on August 24th ; and in October the sale of Ironmongery was commenced at Waterhouses

So far as we know the committee had received no remuneration for their services, but they now decided themselves that their fees should be 2s. for each one for each meeting attended.

The necessity at the Crook shop for more room had led to the stable being utilised for warehousing goods, and the committee had to look around for new stabling accommodation. This was secured in the back of North Terrace, and, as it proved, was the initial start towards the eventual purchase of more property in that locality, and the building of the present premises.

At a price of £300, a dwelling-house (now a flour warehouse) and a stable and yard were purchased from Mr. John Kellett. The owners of the surrounding properties were Mr. James Wilson, Mr. W. J. Pollard, Mr. W. Whitfield, Mr. John Nicholson, Mr. G. Spence, and Mr. J. Bell. The new purchase covered a site of two hundred and thirty-six square yards ; and this land had previously, in 1854, cost £12 2s. 0d., or, roughly, 1s. per square yard. Originally, about 1850, it may here be noted, practically all this part of North Terrace had belonged to one, Mr. Thomas Hodgson, and formed part of a fifty acre farm, tenanted by Mr. Thomas Thompson. The farm buildings were situate in Commercial Street,

adjacent west to the "Crown" Hotel. Mr. A. French, Mr. T. Pearson (Crook), and Mr. Wm. Bland were the signatures affixed to the deed on behalf of the Society, in connection with the transfer of the property.

1873.—At the February General Meeting the chairman was the Rev. T. Dods, and an appeal was read from the Scissett Society for help, to which the members responded by granting one penny per member, and the sum of £3 10s. 0d. was raised.

The committee, in their half-yearly report, pointed out the desirability of extending the Society's premises, and the members finally voted full power to the management to purchase any property they thought necessary for the development of the Society's business.

At the August meeting the members granted the sum of £5 to the West Pelton Society, "as some little help towards overcoming their troubles."

Following this meeting the committee were advised that, with their growing surplus of current cash, some form of investment should be entered on in order to procure a better return than was being obtained; and, after a deal of consideration, it was decided to deposit £2,000 in Messrs. Backhouse's Bank at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest.

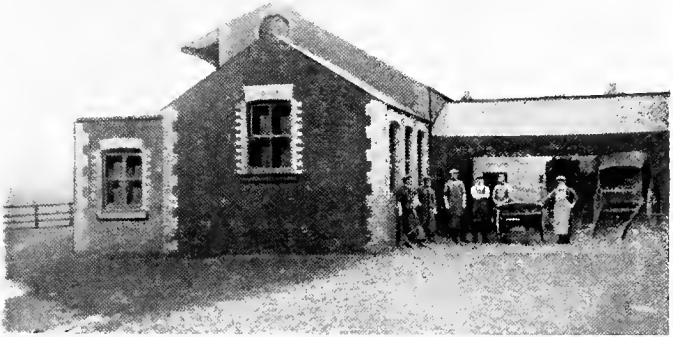
In October flour was dear, and 3s. per stone was charged to members. In the same month also, some encouragement—an order for twenty sacks—was given to a flour mill which had been started at Tow Law, and at later periods further orders were given.

A gift of £1 was sent in November to the "Locksmiths" at Wolverhampton.

In the balance sheet for the period ending December, the number of members (1,138) was first shown on the balance sheet.

1874.—The February meeting favoured the recommendation, "That land be secured at Howden-le-Wear, and, as soon as possible, a branch store erected and opened."

HOWDEN-LE-WEAR BRANCH.



CENTRAL SLAUGHTER-HOUSE AND SHOP.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE (WATERHOUSES BRANCH).

Mr. Mark Willey left the committee, and Mr. John Ashman, Waterhouses, was appointed to the position.

Later on, the Society paid £95 for a horse. This sum is the largest ever paid by the Society ; and those who can remember the animal describe it as a " magnificent specimen."

The promotion of a new branch at Howden occupied the attention of the committee ; and, following some enquiries about land owned by Mr. G. Hutchinson, it was decided to offer £750 for Mr. Flowers' property, and, after a little delay, the purchase was completed, the price being £770. Mr. T. Armstrong and Mr. W. Hutchinson were the sub-committee elected to buy the property. This was in May, and the branch was soon in operation, with Mr. George Cloustone, from the Crook shop, as its first manager.

Quickly following the completion of the Howden branch arrangements, the board busied themselves in their quest for a site on which to build a larger Central Store, which had already, through the rapid increase of business, become an urgent necessity. Mr. George Spence's property, in North Terrace, was announced to be sold, and the Society decided to make an effort to secure the premises offered. The committee agreed that they were prepared to go up to £1,800, and Mr. Wm. Robson was appointed to make the purchase. The sale was on June 3rd, and the secretary and Mr. Alex. French were appointed to attend in the interests of the Society. The property was knocked down at £2,100, the Society being the purchasers. This was £300 in excess of what had been determined on, and occasioned some grumbling amongst the committee. A special meeting was held on June 8th, to consider the matter, and, after discussion, the committee resolved :—

> " That the purchasers of the property be exonerated from all blame."

The price may at that time have appeared to be excessive, but later happenings fully justified the purchase, as it

enabled the Society to gradually become the possessor of premises second to none in their commanding situation in the town. The purchase covered a total of seven hundred and eighty-one square yards, which as land, in 1854 had previously cost £131, or about 3s. 4½d. per square yard. When the Society bought it, there were in Lot 1 a dwelling-house, butcher's shop, and yard with outbuildings, and the occupier was Mr. Thomas Raw. Lot 2 consisted of a dwelling-house and grocer's shop, stable, bakehouse, byre, and outbuildings ; the occupiers were Mr. R. D. Hill and Mr. E. Spence. Having secured the site, the committee at once began on their work of building up premises worthy of the Society. Mr. T. Waddle, Waterhouses, who had often presided over the general meetings, was appointed to draft up an ideal plan. A prize of £20 was then offered to the architect who submitted the best plan nearest to the ideal, and this was won by a Mr. Macara, of Darlington. In December he was engaged to prepare specifications, and also to act as inspector when the building was commenced with.

This year the members decided against holding the Annual Tea Party, and in its place an Excursion was arranged to Sunderland :—

"If possible when the Channel Fleet are in."

A respected townsman, in Mr. Thomas Pickering, stationmaster, left the town at this time, and the Society subscribed ten shillings towards a testimonial which was given him by the townspeople.

## Chapter VIII.

### 1875

THE February General Meeting decided that the laying of the foundation stone of the new Central premises should be signalised by the holding of a Public Tea, after a procession round the town, and also that a band should be engaged for the occasion.

On March 24th Mr. Andrew Reid was engaged in the office, and he still remains with the Society as one of its most capable chief clerks.

On May 19th Mr. Thomas Pearson was appointed to the grocery department. Here he worked for twenty-eight years, until his regretted death in September, 1903. Always pleasant and courteous, his death occasioned deep sympathy from the committee, employees, and customers alike.

A gift of £5 was made to the Blethnavon Society, in response to an urgent appeal for help.

Mr. Pedelty, in the performance of his duties as treasurer, had to visit the Waterhouses branch, and he had to make the journey on foot. The committee decided this was asking too much of their official; whilst there was also a certain amount of risk in carrying the money. A conveyance was hired for future journeys.

The committee, who paid dividends, had received four shillings each, and they were now given five shillings.

In June the question of holidays to the employees was considered, and it was resolved :—

> "That servants of the Society should have three days holiday each this summer."

During the half-year the Society made an investment of £5 in the Co-operative Newspaper Society Limited.

ANDREW REID,
Accountant.
40½ Years' Service.

In July an old and valued auditor and member of the committee, in Mr. Thomas Swan, passed away. He had been responsible for much valuable assistance to the Society in its financial affairs, and, at the August General Meeting, a motion was carried unanimously :—

> " That £5 be presented to Mrs. Swan as a reeognition of her late husband's devotedness to the Co-operative movement in the distriet, together with an expression of sympathy."

The laying of the foundation stone was fixed for August 21st, and it was decided to ask Messrs. Rutherford, Joseph Cowan, and Jas. Watson to be present ; failing these, Messrs. L. Jones, T. Burt, G. Dover, and J. W. Pease were to be invited. We have not been able to obtain any very authentic account of the proceedings, or of the prominent parties amongst those invited who were able to be present. Mr. Isaac Wilson, we believe, in the end laid the foundation stone ; and, for his broad-mindedness and his desire to assist co-operators, was the recipient of many " black looks " from those outsiders who were opposed to eo-operation. The building of the new store had been let to Messrs. Simpson and Cowling, Darlington, whose tender was £1,503 3s. 4d. ; whilst for the plumbing and glazing, the tender of Mr. H. Petch, Darlington, at £261 14s. 0d., was aecepted. The shop fittings were provided by the late Mr. William Lax, Crook, at his tendered price, £295 ; and the late Mr. A. Ryder, for many years a sculptor in the town, carried out the paving work at a cost of £28. At a later period the members decided to have a clock placed in a prominent place in the new building, but " it had not to be a striking clock." Further, it had to be lighted up every night until ten o'clock, and to eleven o'clock on Saturday nights. The clock was supplied by the late Mr. C. B. Mazzucehi at a cost of £40, and he had to keep it in proper going order for twelve months, at the end of which time he was paid £2 per year for his attention to the elock. It is stated that the reason the clock had not to be a

EMPLOYEES AT CENTRAL STORES, 1875.

*Back Row*—J. Learoyd, H. Skipsey, T. Cowell, J. J. Pedelty, R. Clement, J. Whitfield.
*Middle Row*—A. Reid, T. Simpson, W. Lobley, W. Burnip, T. Pedelty, T. Burnip, J. Foster.
*Front Row*—W. Barron, T. Pearson.

" striker " was because fears were entertained " that the building would be endangered by the vibration."

In November the hours of closing were changed a little. Instead of 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, it became 7 p.m. on the former and 9 p.m. on the latter nights.

The committee kept a careful supervision over the erection of the new premises, and at one meeting we find a record which reads :—

> " That Mr. Macara take a pillar out of the front of the new store, and a fresh one put in, and that the following resolution be sent to him :—' That the front of the building is considered unsafe, and that immediate steps be taken to put it right.' "

1875.—The February General Meeting decided that the attendances of the committee were to be shown on the balance sheet every half-year.

There was, at this time, an effort being made to run a Store at Sunniside, but it was not meeting with success, and an appeal was made to our Society to shoulder the venture. The members left the question in the hands of the committee for further investigation, and their report to a Special General Meeting on March 6th was as follows :—

> " That Crook Store does not take steps in taking up the Sunniside Store, without they first advertise for all creditors to send in their claims, and after that for us to take stock and put a proper value on all."

On a vote being taken, it was decided by 41 votes against 28 :—

> " Not to take up the Sunniside Store."

On March 15th Mr. John Lowther was engaged in the grocery department at 15s. per week. A man well versed in his trade, he made progress, and later became manager of the department, and afterwards was appointed

JOHN LOWTHER,

General Manager, 1907 to 1913.

general manager on the death of Mr. Wm. Burnip in 1906. This position he retained until 1913, when ill-health caused him to retire. In the following year he died, amidst general regret.

The erection of the new stores was rapidly being proceeded with, and arrangements were put in order for the opening ceremony. This auspicious event was fixed for September 2nd, 1876, and the following account—for which we are indebted to the editor of the *Auckland Chronicle*—gives a very full account of the proceedings:—

*Extract from the "Auckland Mercury," September 7th,* 1876.

"CO-OPERATION AT CROOK.

"Opening of the New Stores.

"On Saturday afternoon, the new stores of the Crook Industrial Co-operative Society were formally opened at Crook. The stores, the foundation stone of which was laid on the 22nd August, 1875, are situated in North Terrace, and form a valuable addition to the architectural features of the town. The following is a description of the buildings:—The building, which is in the Gothic style of architecture, covers an area of 809 square yards, and contains, on the basement floor, two cellars, 43 feet 6 inches by 20 feet; ground floor—grocers' shop, 50 feet by 25 feet; drapery shop, 44 feet by 19 feet; warehouse, 43 feet 6 inches by 20 feet; scullery, pantry, water-closets, etc. First floor—millinery' shop, 26 feet by 22 feet 6 inches; tailors' shop, 20 feet 6 inches by 18 feet 6 inches; shoemakers' shop, 26 feet by 12 feet; shoemakers' workshop, 20 feet 8 inches by 14 feet; manager's sitting-room, 21 feet by 12 feet; kitchen, 20 feet by 18 feet; flour warehouse, 28 feet 6 inches by 20 feet 8 inches. Second floor—milliners' workshop, 26 feet by 22 feet 6 inches; tailors' workshop, 24 feet 6 inches by 22 feet 6 inches; committee-room, 21 feet 6 inches by 12 feet; and three bed-rooms. The front of

the building is formed of pitch-faced blockers, in level courses, with ashlar dressings; the back walling is formed of brickwork. The entire cost of the building (exclusive of the site) is about £3,300.

"The contractors for the brick, stone, and plaster work were Messrs. Simpson and Cowling; carpenter and joiners' work, Messrs. Laverick and Foster; slaters' work, Messrs. Atkinson and Son; plumber and glaziers' work, Mr. H. Petch; painters' work, Messrs. Wilson and Mellis—all of Darlington. The fittings were executed by Mr. W. Lax, of Crook. Mr. Macara, Darlington, was the architect.

"At 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon the committee and several of the members assembled at the stores, when they were declared open by Dr. Gammage, of Sunderland. The Woolley Prize Brass Band then promenaded the principal streets, and then repaired to a field near the British Schools (lent by Mr. Kellett), where a meeting was held. It was announced on the bills that Mr. David Dale, Mr. Lloyd Jones, and Mr. John Morrell would deliver addresses, but, in consequence of business engagements, these three gentlemen were unable to attend. Several hundred people having assembled in the field, Mr. Isaac Wilson was voted to the chair.

"The chairman, in opening the meeting, said it was with much feeling that he looked back some thirty years to a time when co-operation, then in its infancy, and badly understood, was fiercely opposed by the prejudice of every class, and stigmatised as atheists, infidels, and firebrands. (Laughter.) The supporters of co-operation had then failed to establish their principle; and when they considered the opposition, they could scarcely wonder at the failure, but, in failing, these pioneers sowed the seed which had now sprung up in such abundance over the land. (Applause.) It was in 1850 that he came to Crook to establish a small co-operative store in Commercial Street. They struggled on with that little store; and if they failed in their mission, the seed had

sprung up in the splendid building they had opened that day. (Applause.) His conduct in taking a prominent part in this matter might be questioned by some, as it had been at the laying of the corner-stone, but he did not care for that, for he believed in his conscience that he was doing his duty. (Hear, hear.) Co-operation stood now in a vastly different position from what it did in those days to which he had referred. Then the middle classes were in enmity to the working classes—witness the Chartist agitation, when thousands of their fellow-countrymen were thrust in durance vile for demanding their rights. Before he had been three months in Crook, a letter in the *Durham Chronicle*, a column long, called upon the police and every other authority to put down that man, Isaac Wilson, of Crook. (Laughter.) The only consequence of that letter was that he filled every pane in his window with the most radical publications of the day, and he heard no more about the matter. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Since those days, co-operation was recognised as a power in the land. (Applause.)

"Dr. Gammage, Sunderland, said he too had a vivid recollection of the days referred to by Mr. Wilson, when there was no protection for the property of co-operative societies—when they were, in fact, illegal societies, and when their property was at the mercy of any rascal of a secretary or manager who might choose to rob them. Thanks to the efforts of the working classes—the working-men of this country, in the shape of co-operative societies and trade unions, had gained a standing-point to work their own emancipation. (Applause.) Apart from a financial point of view, co-operation benefited the working classes, though monetarily the advantage was great. The earnings of the working-men were scant enough, and anything which would induce them to make a good use of their money instead of spending it in public-houses amid the fumes of beer and tobacco, would be profitable to themselves, and to their wives and families. (Hear, hear.) Co-operation was an educator of the people, to teach them their social and political position;

and he believed that if working-men had understood their position properly, the nation would never have rushed into wars, and they should consequently never have been saddled with a debt of eight hundred millions. (Applause.)

"Mr. James Watson, Newcastle, was the next speaker. He said that, if there was anything calculated to promote the independence—and he liked the word 'independence' (Hear, hear)—of the working classes of this country, it was the co-operative movement. They were in a queer position in this country, politically speaking, and if it were not for the good sense that was abroad, and the independence and intelligence that were among the people at this present moment, they would have something like unto a state of war—they would have been attempting to prop up the poor, old, sick, dying man (Laughter), who had been dying so long, and who would have been dead twenty years ago had it not been for England's stupidity. (Hear, hear.) He had no doubt but that their aristocratic tory government would at that moment draw them into war if it were not for the sense of the people of England. The power which the law now gave working-men in dealing with the secretaries and managers of their co-operative stores was the same as it gave them over their government, and if they saw the government leading them to disaster, they could say, 'You have done your mischief; go about your business, and we will see someone else to conduct the affairs of the State.' (Applause.) When, in a country like this, they raise for the government yearly the sum of £70,000,000, and they had the confounded impudence to tell them it is not enough, was it not time the people stood upon their independence, and told the government that if they could not conduct the business of the nation in a better manner than to be compelled to spend £75,000,000 a year, it was time that they went away, and that somebody else took their places. (Applause.) If the working-men carried out properly the work which had been described to them by the previous speakers, they

would secure their own interests, and the power which properly belonged to them ; but they would never attain these objects if they kept depending upon other people to do what they ought to do themselves. (Hear, hear.) It is time that such cannibalism as that was got out of the world. (Laughter and applause.) They were a marching race, and they would never progress unless they had light, reason, and intelligence. (Hear, hear.) Co-operation, if rightly understood, would carry out all the objects he had spoken of, but he was afraid too much attention was paid to dividend mite. (Hear, hear and laughter.) He hoped, however, that co-operation would be supported for something higher than that, and they would all remember that co-operation included the welfare of not only themselves but their fellow-men. (Loud Applause.)

" Mr. Burnip, the general secretary, then read the Report, which stated that the Crook Industrial Co-operative Society originated in 1865 with forty members, and a capital of £67 10s. 1d., and now it had about two thousand members and a capital of over £16,000. The receipts for last year amounted to £83,000, and the profits available for dividend realised £9,600. He also read the architect's report, which will be found above.

" Votes of thanks to chairman and speakers terminated the meeting, and afterwards a ' monstre tea ' was held in a large marquee erected in the field, when several hundreds sat down."

The entrance into the new premises was responsible for a re-arrangement of the working methods, and Mr. Thomas Simpson was appointed working foreman in the grocery department, and Mr. John J. Pedelty to a similar position in the drapery department. Mr. Thomas Purdy and Miss Cole were also engaged for the latter place, whilst Miss Henderson was appointed head milliner, and stayed with the Society till 1881. The latter lady is now Mrs. George Wearmouth, a resident of

Cullercoats. Mr. Abraham Richardson, in September, was given the appointment as working tailors' cutter, and Mr. Thomas Richardson, also, in the same month, was given the post of foreman in the boot and shoe department. The latter was very popular, and every regret was expressed at his sudden death, which occurred in 1906, when he came home ill after his usual annual holidays, and died immediately.

Hay was again very dear during this winter, and cost £7 10s. 0d. per ton.

The lack of banking facilities was badly felt, and the secretary was instructed to approach Messrs. Backhouse and Co., requesting them to open a daily branch in the town.

At Waterhouses, Mr. Thomas Hall was engaged for the boot department, and it was also decided :—

> "To occupy his shop, at 2s. 6d. per week, till we get a place of our own."

The quarterly meeting, in November, voted a grant of £2 as help to the Glynn Heath Society.

In December the committee were desirous of investing £500 in North Eastern Railway Consols. The money, however, was returned, as it was found the Society could not invest in its own name, but that trustees were required. The Society lacked trustees, but later this deficiency was remedied.

The almanacs given away at the festive season were "Descent from the Cross" and "The Lord's Prayer."

## Chapter IX.

### 1877.

COMMENCING January, 1877, the committee decided to allow five per cent. to non-members on making their purchases, but this decision was soon rescinded. In this same month, a member complained of the hand-made boots. After a proper investigation, the committee expressed themselves as satisfied—

> "That our boots made at the Store are as well worth 21s. as the pair produced by Mr. Heslop at 16s. 6d.; considering quality of top and bottom and workmanship."

As an experiment, goods were delivered to members who had gone to reside at Leasingthorne, but it was not a success, and was early discontinued.

Bacon was sold at 6½d. per pound, and ham at 7½d. per pound; flour fluctuated in price, being 3s. per stone one month and 2s. per stone the next.

The August General Meeting decided that a detailed statement of the accounts of the various departments and branches had to appear on future balance sheets. The sales had, up to this period, appeared in one item. For the half-years ending June and December, 1877, they were sub-divided into groceries and provisions, drapery, tailoring, boot and shoe, and millinery departments, without, however, distinguishing as to the separate sales at the Central, Waterhouses, and Howden shops. This method was altered in the balance sheet ending June, 1878, when the trading account of every department was shown—a practice still in vogue. The departments then running were: Crook—groceries and provisions, drapery, ready-made clothing, millinery, and

boots and shoes ; Waterhouses—groceries and provisions, drapery, millinery, and boots and shoes ; Howden —groceries and provisions, drapery, and boots and shoes.

The August meeting, in 1877, also touched on the question of " Quoit-playing in the Store yard by the employees," and the committee were instructed to give the matter their immediate attention. It was afterwards decided :—

> " That the question of quoit-playing be upon the following conditions :—That under no circumstances any money be allowed to be played for, and, failing that, that they be done away with altogether."

From all accounts, some of these dinner and tea-time games provided some gay old times.

In August, Mr. T. Pedelty, as treasurer, was bound for £500, and he was instructed to bank all money possible at Bishop Auckland every Saturday.

Mr. Brown, the printer of the balance sheets, was informed that he had to get a view of the Store premises printed on the sheets ; failing which, he would lose the order.

Trade was gradually slackening in all parts of the country, and we see a reflection of it in many of the decisions carried both at the general meetings and in committee.

1878.—The Society was feeling the effects to some extent, as is evidenced by the motion at the February General Meeting, 1878 :—

> " Urging the committee to evolve some means of increasing the sales and reducing the working expenses."

At this meeting a grant of £50 was made from the Reserve Fund towards the relief of the Northumberland miners. The latter were on strike, and, with their families, were suffering many hardships. A motion by Mr. Wm. Heslop to introduce professional stocktakers and auditors was negatived by the members.

The " club card " system was introduced in February.

In May, we note the engagement of Mr. George Wm. Burnip, Peases West. He was a son of the late Mr. John Burnip, and a nephew of the late Mr. Wm. Burnip. An able man, and gifted in many ways, he was in the clerical department up to his untimely and sincerely regretted death in 1900.

Tobacco was reduced to the old prices, but only half dividend was paid on this article.

The Stores were now closed at 6 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays at 8 p.m., and Saturdays at 9 p.m. At Waterhouses it was 9 p.m. on Fridays, and 8 p.m. on Saturdays.

The continued depression in trade was severely felt on the Waterhouses side ; and we note that hereabouts many members emigrated to America. A goodly number of our Howden customers also went to live at Durham, and the Society decided to deliver goods to them in that city. Later some of the employees, on account of the trade decrease, had to suffer a reduction in their wages, whilst others had to take alternate weeks of " holiday "! The committee gave orders that goods had to be given to the local soup kitchens. The general meeting afterwards found fault with this decision, but the question must have been serious, as, a little later, the committee were given full power to commence soup kitchens at Crook, Waterhouses, and Howden, and continue them, if necessary, during the winter.

On November 20th Mr. Wm. Taylor was elected to the committee in the place of Mr. T. Waddle ; and, on December 4th, Mr. John Rowlinson was appointed in place of Mr. D. Scott.

1879.—From January, 1879, full dividend was paid on tobacco.

A decision on January 22nd by the committee, " that a certain well-known patent medicine should not be sold," was probably due to some trouble over the price charged to the Society, and not on account of any absence of sickness in the district.

Miss Varty was head milliner at Waterhouses at this period, and she left in 1881, when Miss Elliott was appointed. The latter stayed until 1883, and Miss Thompson, who was engaged, remained with the Society till 1888.

A resolution to appeal against the assessments on the various properties owned by the Socicty fell through, owing to excessive charges required by valuers.

Bacon sold at 5d. per pound, and ham at 6d. per pound.

On April 30th a sum of £20 was sent towards the general funds of the Durham Miners' Association. Grants were also frequently made towards new roads and new bridges in the district. Some of these included :— £3 to the new bridge at Esh Colliery, in October, 1878 ; £3 to a bridge at New Houses, Waterhouses, in June, 1880 ; £5 to repair road at Hamsteels, in November, 1881 ; £3 7s. 6d. to making road at Cornsay from Hamsteels, September, 1882 ; £10 to making the Hope Street end, and another £10 to be given if the plans were satisfactory to the committee.

On October 1st Mr. J. J. Pedelty resigned his position, and went to Skelton-in-Cleveland. He did not stay long with the latter Society, and was again engaged by our Society in January, 1880. Miss Cole was given charge of the department, and this post she held until 1881, when she left the Society's service, and Mr. Pedelty was again appointed foreman.

1880.—In May an appeal was made from Hamsteels, desiring the Society to commence a branch store in that village, but the decision was :—

> " That we have no idea of commencing a branch establishment at Hamsteels at present."

On August 14th Mr. Wm. Domville was engaged for the Howden shop. He later became manager at this branch, which position he held till he left the Society in 1913.

The August General Meeting decided that the Waterhouses district should be allowed an extra representative on the committee. For many years Mr. Wm. Bland had held the office of chairman, but he at this time was superseded by Mr. Jos. Patterson.

In October there was a re-arrangement of the departments at Waterhouses, and millinery was introduced. A motion was also passed :—

> "That none of the servants in the Store be allowed to keep poultry or pigs."

Mr. John Ashman, Waterhouses, who in the early days was a member of the committee, achieved a fair amount of success as a local poet, and his lines on the *Co-operative Stores* were well received by the members at that time, and we do not doubt but they will afford interest to those members of a more recent date.

### OUR CO-OPERATIVE STORES—AND THE GOODS WE SELL.

THE best thing, say some men, for raising the nation,
Would be to give all men a good education ;
While others will tell you 'tis their inclination
To think there is nothing will beat combination ;
And others declare this (without hesitation),
That nought will suceeed without co-operation.
Now I, for myself, think (if all would agree),
'Twould be best to try, not only one, but all three.

* * * * * * *

A few men at Crook, in eighteen-sixty-four,
Resolved they would have a Co-operative Store ;
They felt quite determin'd, like good men and true
To try what their united efforts would do.
They started at first on a very small scale ;
For some time they had not a very large sale ;
I believe the first year they were somewhat in debt,
No matter, said they, we will not give up yet.
Some said, "Pooh ! pooh ! *they'll* not go on long,
They'll *never* succeed, they're not very strong ;
If they do not break, they'll very soon *bend*,
Like all other upstarts, they'll come to an end."

But they did go on and began to compete,
And removed to a much larger shop in Hope Street ;
The clouds were dispersed, the sun shone out brighter,
And soon our committee-men's burden got lighter.
Our numbers increased every week more and more,
And strangers in Crook asked the way to the Store ;
Should any feel doubtful that this was the case,
Ask that fine looking building in Crook market-place.
We sent a lad out in the country for orders ;
The time had arrived for extending our borders ;
" Let's do *this*," said one man, " and don't let us dally !
Let's open a branch store in Deerness Valley."
A meeting was summoned without more delay,
To hear what the members and friends had to say ;
The thing was moved, seconded, carried, and so
A small shop was taken at Hamilton Row.
All needful arrangements were very soon made,
And soon we were doing a pretty good trade ;
The ladies went shopping with bright smiling faces,
New members flocked in from the neighbouring places.
But still the committee were not quite content,
They thought they would like to save paying more rent ;
And as the Society had much stronger grown,
'Twas time we were building a store of our own.
So land was secured, and the contract was made,
The plans were drawn up, and the foundation laid ;
The building was reared, and all made complete ;
It stands on your right, going down Russell Street.
The business is thriving, we're still getting stronger,
We're not to be laugh'd at, or pooh'd any longer ;
In numbers we beat some Societies hollow ;
We've two thousand members and still more to follow.
Our members residing down yon side of Crook
Began to have quite a dissatisfied look ;
They said, " If we can't have a store, 'tis a pity ";
Their request was at once brought before the committee.
The ladies complain'd they had too far to go ;
The thing was considered, decided, and so
When the committee could see their way clear,
They opened a store down at Howden-le-Wear.
We've a choice stock of goods now on hand, I am told,
And dividend's paid on the articles sold ;
Our members will tell you (tho' rather unwilling)
They now have a pound where they hadn't a shilling.
Now, ladies, allow me to call your attention
To some of these articles I will now mention ;
To purchase our goods we don't wish to compel you,
But, please, *is there any thing here we can sell you ?*

Our wheat-meal and flour are of excellent quality,
And what I now say is the truth in reality ;
With good yeast and good flour (a lady once said),
The housewife should always have excellent bread.
We have good lard and bacon, salt butter and sweet ;
Good bread and good butter is always a treat ;
We have good ham and eggs, Wensleydale and Dutch cheese,
Good rice and good corn-flour, pearl barley and peas.
We have coffee and cocoa, and chicory too,
Dry soap, washing powders, soda and blue,
Sago and matches, Bath biscuits and starch ;
You couldn't find better in twenty days march.
Our raisins and currants (as sweet as pure honey),
Better fruit can't be bought anywhere for the money ;
If you wish to feel happy, lightsome, and free,
Use our dandelion coffee and grand " Nabob " tea.
We've an excellent stock of tobacco on hand,
As good as you'll buy anywhere in the land ;
We've black twist and brown twist, for chewers and puffers,
And choice-scented high dry, and Scotch snuff for snuffers.
And white, brown, yellow, and blue-mottled soap,
Will lather a pitman. a parson, or pope ;
Our treacle and sugars cannot be surpassed
For quality, colour, and excellent taste.
We have mustard and vinegar, black and white pepper,
Worcester sauce, Yorkshire relish, cassia, all-spice, and ginger,
Candied peel, nutmegs, salt, whiting, and yeast ;
So we say that our blacklead and blacking's the best.
Bread seeds, bird seeds, brushes, broom heads and handles,
Hair-oil and milk, paraffin and pit candles ;
Barley meal, pollard, rough barley, and bran,
Indian meal for cattle, and oatmeal for man.
We have choice jams and jellies, and grand marmalade,
From London, and Glasgow, and Stockton-on-Tees ;
*Shall we send you a half-dozen pots, if you please ?*
We've salmon, lobster, rabbit, boiled mutton, and corned beef,
Good enough for a king, queen, prince, duke, or thief ;
Potatoes and onions and good apples too ;
Better get a few stones, I'm sure you'll not rue.

* * * * * * * * *

We've Clayton's, and Beecham's, and Holloway's pills,
To cure all diseases and bodily ills.

We've Dr. Rooke's medicine, and cod liver oil,
To nourish the lungs, and consumption to foil.
Composition essence and essence of linseed,
Two very good things for a bad cold, indeed ;
We have Clarke's blood mixture, and quinine wine,
And those who have taken it say it is fine.
We have castor oil, olive oil, paints and varnish ;
Mother Seigil's syrup, and furniture polish ;
Our camomile, gentian root, and hops, I hear,
With sugar and ginger makes good bitter beer.
We've sewing and wringing machines, pails and poss sticks ;
Clothes lines and clothes pegs, pick shafts and picks ;
Bait tins, candle boxes, tin bottles, and cans,
Cake tins, loaf tins, lamps, and frying pans
Dutch ovens, dripping tins, dust pans, and skuttles,
Metal pans, coffee pots, teapots, and kettles ;
And numerous other things, both large and small ;
But I cannot give you the names of them all.

* * * * * * * *

Our boots, shoes, and slippers are made of good leather,
Manufactured to suit either wet or dry weather,
With low heels, and high heels to make you look tall,
With thin soles and thick soles, and no *souls* at all.
We have strong boots and shoes, for the coke-yard and pit ;
Whatever your size, we can perfectly fit ;
When out of repair, you have only to send them ;
We keep a good cobbler on purpose to mend them.

* * * * * * * *

Our millinery department is always replete
With various articles, both stylish and neat ;
We've jackets and Ulsters for children and ladies :
Coats, capes, frocks, bibs, and linen for babies.
Shawls, shawlettes, stays, corsets, and dress caps,
Silk, straw, felt, fur, and pompadore hats,
Mitts, infantees, gaiters, wool jackets, and hoods ;
In no other shop can you buy better goods.
Should any good lady require a cheap bonnet,
With plenty of flowers and ribbons put on it,
Then make out your order, and send it, or take it
To one of our milliners, who'll very soon make it.
We've velvet, feathers, satin, silk, net, lace, and crapes,
Ruche, tulle, hair brushes, bonnets, fronts, and shapes,

Buckles, birds, brooches, bows, and other ornaments ;
And first-class silk umbrellas, for ladies or gents.
We have belts, tails, plaits, or as good a chignon
As any fair damsel could wish to put on ;
Pinafores, aprons, underclothing, and skirts ;
In the drapery line we have ready-made shirts,
Calicoes, diapers, hollands, and harns,
Ready-made stockings, wools, worsteds, and yarns,
Handkerchiefs, braces, scarfs, mufflers, and ties,
Gloves, cuffs, and collars of various size.
Silk falls for the ladies, to cover their faces,
Hair nets and frillings, buttons, tapes, threads, and laces.
Reels, needles, and pins, white and black hooks and eyes;
Our flannel and prints competition defies.
Fringes, white fronts, ice-wool, and wool boots,
Topcoats and cord trousers, men's and boys' suits,
Cotton, busks, hessian, towels, hard and soft hats.
Black cords, alpacas, Sicilians, and braids.
Cashmeres, merinoes, furs, damask, and plaids,
White linen, blue linen, kersey, and winseys,
Blind cord, elastic, French twills, jean, and linseys,
French llamas, Scotch tweeds, black cloth and blue ;
Kidderminster carpets, and tapestry too ;
Oil baizes, table cloths, furniture, and bedsteads ;
Down, flocks, feathers, and ticking for beds ;
Counterpanes, blankets, and all kinds of bedding,
Cocoa mats, wool mats, hearth rugs, and wadding.
We sell crockery, including white and brown mugs,
Brown teapots, dinner plates, dishes, and jugs.

* * * * * * * *

Now, ladies and gents, should you like a look through
Either one of our stores ? Then this you may do ;
You may call any day through the week (without fear)
At Crook, Waterhouses, or Howden-le-Wear.
I've accomplished the task I set myself to,
And what I have said I believe to be true ;
However, should any be tempted to doubt it,
Ask Parkinson, Burnip, or Cloustone about it.
Let committee and members all pull well together,
Nor try to defraud not the weight of a feather ;
Let servants and managers stick well to their oars ;
Three cheers for them all, and success to the *STORES.*

## Chapter X.

### 1881.

AT the General Meeting in February, Mr. John Scott gave notice of motion :—" That the question of districts be introduced at the Annual Meeting in August, and that the secretary prepare a list of members in each district." At the time appointed the scheme was discussed, but it was decided to elect the committee in the usual way.

The Society—following on a slack period—was rapidly increasing its membership, which now totalled 2,350, with a capital of £17,904 19s. 1d. to their credit. The sales for the half-year ending December, 1880, were £54,205 3s. 7d., an increase of £17,330 2s. 9d.

Miss Swan, head of the Waterhouses drapery department, left the Society, and Mr. A. Earnshaw was appointed to be foreman in her place.

Mr. William Simpson was engaged on March 9th, and Mr. Roger Turnbull on March 23rd. The former is still engaged in the Central grocery department, whilst Mr. Turnbull is the present capable and esteemed cashier at Waterhouses.

The Society had generally contributed to the Agricultural Show as each year came round, but this time we find a grant of five shillings to the Crook Industrial Show, which was held on June 8th.

Mr. Wylam Richardson, who is now cashier at the Central, commenced at Waterhouses branch on September 28th ; and Mr. John Armstrong, who was engaged on November 23rd, is now employed in the general office.

1882.—At the February Half-yearly Meeting it was decided to pay dividend on all articles sold by the Society. Previously no dividend had been paid on sugar. An appeal was made for a branch store to be started at Tow Law, but the members decided :—

> "That there be no branch store at Tow Law at present, or so long as there exists a store at Tow Law."

At the August General Meeting the question of the constitution of the committee, regarding how the different districts were to be represented, was discussed. It was agreed to have branch and not district representation, and that there should be three members for the Waterhouses district and one for the Howden district. The pay of the committee was fixed as follows :—All who reside in Crook, or within a radius of one mile, to be paid one shilling ; outside one mile, one shilling and sixpence ; the Waterhouses representatives, two shillings per night. An appeal for a subscription towards the Miners' Permanent Relief Fund was not granted. The committee were empowered to invest the Society's funds to the best advantage, and Mr. Wm. Burnip, Mr. T. Pedelty, Mr. Wm. Robinson, and Mr. Henry Bowes were appointed as trustees.

1883.—In January the secretary and manager, Mr. Wm. Burnip, met with a regrettable and serious accident. He was returning home in a trap from Waterhouses, when the horse "shied," and Mr. Burnip was thrown out on to the road. On being picked up and examined, it was found that his leg was broken. He was conveyed home, and every attention was given him, but he had many painful weeks ere he was able to discard his crutches.

The Society experienced some trouble with Mr. Cloustone, manager at the Howden branch. He was recalled to the Crook shop, but refused to make the change, and Mr. J. Greener was therefore given charge of the Central grocery, and Mr. Thomas Simpson was

appointed to the Howden position, which he held until 1904, when he left to commence business on his own account. A Special General Meeting was called to consider Mr. Cloustone's case, and a ballot was demanded of the members. The committee's decision was upheld by 1,646 votes to 504—a clear majority of 1,142.

There were at this period very many alterations made in the Rules, the committee appointed for the purpose of revising being Messrs. W. Heslop, T. Armstrong, J. Race, J. Young, Elwin Wilson, Jno. Parkin, Wm. Todd, Parkin Robinson, Jos. Middlemas, John Scott, Jos. Rudkin, Jont. Thompson, John Ivil, Benj. Coates, T. Lambert, W. Hodgson, J. Barron, J. Evans, T. Dover, Henry Bowes, L. Hood, G. Woodhall, John Dawson, and James Dack.

Miss Fawcett, who had been head milliner at the Central from 1881, left in August, and Miss Caisley was appointed.

The question of the suggested branch at Tow Law again cropped up, and the secretary was instructed to write to the Tow Law Society, stating, "that the Crook Store had no idea of starting a branch there."

The membership touched the 3,000 mark in June, and then followed, on August 8th, Mr. Lowther's appointment as foreman in the grocery department.

On December 19th Mr. Joseph Riddell was engaged, and he remained until August of the present year, when he left the service of the Society.

The necessity of enlarging the Central premises was once more apparent, in order to meet the rapidly increasing trade, and big alterations and additions were entered into. This ended in the building of that portion now occupied by the ready-mades and boot and shoe departments, and the general manager's house. The Society, in July, had bought the existing buildings, comprising six freehold dwelling-houses, leased to Messrs. Bolckow and Vaughan for their Woodifield Colliery workers, and owned by Mr. John James Maddison. The purchase

price was £500, and as the site covered some four hundred and fifty-three square yards, the Society made a fairly good bargain. The houses—or cottages, as they might more correctly be described—were built about 1853. Two faced the Market, or village green, two were back houses, and the other two stood in the yard. The land, in 1853, belonged to G. Hutton Wilkinson, Esq., Harperly Hall, who sold it to one—Mr. Arthur Coates for £53 10s. 0d.—a price which worked out roughly at about 2s. 5d. per square yard. The tenants of the houses in 1853 were John Hutchinson, Esther Heseltine, John Temperley, John Parkin, Thomas Pickering, and Richard Oliver. These six cottages were situate where now stands the boot and shoe and ready-mades departments The portion occupied by the butcher's shop and manager's house was formerly three dwelling-houses, owned by the late Mr. John Hare, who sold the land and houses to the Society for £500 in October, 1883. The site totalled two hundred and eighty-nine square yards, and was originally bought from G. H. Wilkinson, Esq., by Mr. Samuel Hare, in 1848, at a cost of £39 12s. 0d., or nearly 2s. 10d. per square yard.

Mr. R. H. Oughton was appointed to draw up plans and specifications for the extensions, and in this work he had an able assistant in Mr. Samuel Candler, a son of the late Mr. L. Candler, East Lodge. Mr. S. Candler is at the present time a valued member of the committee.

The first item in the new order of things was the erection of the present spacious warehouse at a cost of £1,050. Mr. Thomas Walton was the builder, and Mr. Richard Bousfield acted as clerk of the works.

1884.—In the following May the tender of Mr. John Hare, at £2,200, was accepted for the erection of the new front premises. Meanwhile, Mr. Burnip and his family vacated their rooms, which they had resided in on the older premises, the lower part of which was added to the drapery department. For somewhere about twelve months, the manager resided in Gladstone Street, and

then the new portion was entered on. At the opening of the new premises, business was commenced straight-away, without any special opening proceedings, in accordance with the decision of the General Meeting.

The new warehouse which had been added was, along with the stock it contained, insured for £5,000. Mr. Wm. Henderson, who had been warehouseman at Waterhouses from February, 1876, was given the appointment as the Crook warehouseman, and he served the Society nobly and faithfully for twenty-five years. He was the recipient of a nice present from his fellow-employees on the occasion of his leaving in 1901. He now possesses an excellent business at Leadgate.

Mr. Charles Curl entered the Society as a clerk on February 27th, and to-day is still, as a traveller, a respected and popular worker.

Distress, towards the month of May, was prevalent in the town and district, and, to assist in its alleviation, it was decided :—

> "That £50 worth of goods be given to the workmen in this district who are not in receeipt of any funds from any other association.
>
> "That the goods shall be distributed to each family according to the number comprising the several families.
>
> "That all claims come through the several secretaries of the different lodges, whether Union men or not."

The £50 worth was afterwards distributed amongst two hundred and thirty-six families, representing eight hundred and eighty-six persons, at 1s. 1d. per head.

Members who had gone to live at Littleburn petitioned for a delivery of goods, and this was granted. The cart was sent once every month ; but in later years, despite the distance of some nine miles, deliveries of goods are made every fortnight, whilst the butcher and greengrocer visit the village every week.

The meeting on July 23rd was the last over which Mr. Henry Bowes, Waterhouses, presided ; and, at the August General Meeting, a vote of sympathy was passed with him, and regret expressed that he was unable to continue his duties on the committee.

In August deliveries of goods were commenced to Evenwood. In November this journey was discontinued, only to be revived a little later on the petition from members resident in that place.

September saw another branching out in the food line. This was the introduction of the meat department. No slaughter-house was needed, for the supplies came from far over the seas, in the shape of mutton—genuine "frozen" mutton from New Zealand.

The Auditor's Report for this half-year is well worth reading, and is appended :—

"To the officers and members :

"After carefully examining the books, vouchers, and other accounts of your Society, for the half-year ending June last, we have pleasure in testifying to the accuracy of the same, and that the balance sheet affords a correct statement of the position of the Society. We have also examined the securities and deeds of the property and the investments, and find them to be complete. The total profits for the half-year amount to £10,356 12s. 11d. out of which—after setting aside £400 for depreciation of property, and £54 18s. 4d. for depreciation of fixed and live stock, there remains available for dividend £9,901 14s. 7d., being at the rate of 2s. 9d. in the £ on £72,012 11s. 4d. of purchases. In conclusion, it is a subject for congratulation that, in view of the unusually dull times we have passed through, your Society has been able so well to maintain its business and prosperity.

"In addition to the ordinary report, your auditors have thought it might be useful to refer generally to the position of the Society, in reference to its plant and the

amount of its business. Notwithstanding the extensions now going on, the valuation of the Society's building, plant, etc., as given in the balance sheet, is lower, according to the extent of business, than in other large Societies in the county ; this is a satisfactory and reassuring feature. Thus, in a neighbouring large society it is over £22,000 ; while it is £10,875 only in your Society's balance sheet, and doing about three-fourths of the business. One good feature in the report of the Society referred to is the application of £900 to depreciation—an example worthy of our imitation, on account of its tendency to place the Society in a stronger and more substantial position. The same plan as adopted by this Society is also followed, of taking the amount set aside for depreciation from the amount of the plant, which is in every way the best and most advantageous course.

"We are,
"Yours obediently,
"JOHN DAWSON,
"HENRY STOKER,
"Auditors."

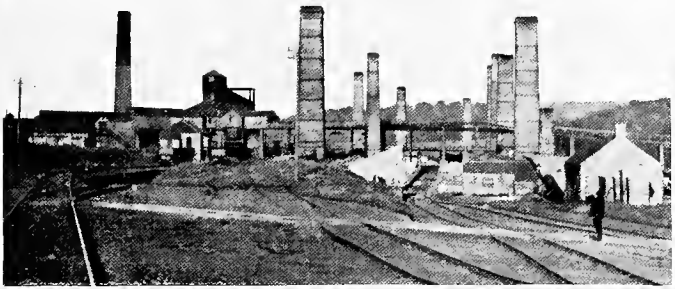
In August the employees made an effort to promote a Glee Party ; and, for purposes of singing practices, they requested the use of the room in the new warehouse, but this was not granted.

In November Mr. Joseph Middlemas, Willington, was elected to the committee, in place of Mr. P. Robinson, who had resigned on removing from Crook.

Following on the committee's great effort in the erection of the new Central premises, was an inquiry as to the requirements on the Waterhouses side of the hill. Mr. W. Heslop, Mr. J. Dack, Mr. T. Lambert, Mr. T. Binns, and Mr. G. Ward were appointed to make a full investigation, and they finally reported :—

"That the stores at Waterhouses are insufficient for our purposes."

WATERHOUSES BRANCH.



*Top*—CHURCH, Waterhouses. *Centre*—SCHOOLS, Waterhouses.
*Bottom*—WATERHOUSES COLLIERY.

The committee already had plenty of land for their project, as a ninety-nine years lease had been signed in 1882 with Viscount Boyne for four hundred and sixty-two square yards, at a ground rental of £3 17s. 0d. per annum. The agreement made was between Viscount Boyne on the one part, and Henry Bowes, Waterhouses, coke inspector; Robert Paxton, Hamsteels, engineer; Thomas Clark, Hedley Hill, coke labourer; Benjamin Coates, Wooley, enginewright; John Scott, Stanley, bank inspector; John Race, overman, Anthony Flowers, coke inspector, William Askew, coal miner, William Robinson, railway policeman, and Thomas Lambert, coal miner, all of Crook; William Vipond, Howden-le-Wear, school warden; and Thomas Dover, Bowden Close, weighman; the committee of the Crook Co-operative Society Limited, on the other part.

To Mr. George Ward, Waterhouses, was entrusted the drawing up of the plans and specifications, and, in March, 1885, the contract was let to Mr. T. Walton, Crook, at £2,010. Mr. Ward, the architect, was engineer, at Waterhouses, and, in addition to being a skilful draughtsman, was a highly esteemed gentleman, and gained the respect of all with whom he came in contact.

At a Special Meeting in May it was decided that, for future elections of the committee, the Society should be formed into six districts, viz. :—Crook, two representatives; Wooley and Stanley, two; Sunniside and Tow Law, two; Brancepeth, two; Waterhouses, three; and Howden, one. The leader in the Society's affairs had always been designated as "chairman," and was chosen by the committee, usually at their first meeting. It was, in August, decided to change this method by introducing the title of "president," and, under this heading, Mr. William Heslop was the first to be elected; the appointment being made at the General Meeting. This same meeting refused an appeal from the Woodifield miners for help, on account of the great number out of work in the district.

The Tow Law Store question was again brought to the notice of the board, and the secretary had to write :—

> " Regretting that we cannot interfere with the question of the Tow Law Store."

In October a move was made to introduce English mutton, and, a little later, it was fixed that the whole question of butchering and the delivery of meat should receive special consideration. This latter was the decision of the November Quarterly Meeting, at which notice of motion was also given that the Quarterly Meetings should be held alternately at Crook and Water houses.

On November 11th Mr. John Thompson was engaged as a wagon-boy. He afterwards became one of the provision hands, and then was transferred to manage the Sunniside branch in 1906, and to a similar post at the Stanley branch in 1908. Mr. Thompson left in May, 1911, to take up the position of general manager to the Swalwell Society, where he is still engaged.

At this time there was a deal of discussion amongst the Northern societies, relative to the evils of overlapping and other undesirable methods which were creeping into the co-operative movement. Much of the blame was attributed to the craze for high dividends, and, to meet this, meetings were held to endeavour that all societies should pay a uniform dividend. Our Society supported the movement, which, however, failed to procure operation.

Mr. John Dawson, Crook, died in 1885. He was auditor to the Society almost from its beginning. Gifted with an extraordinary genius for figures, his assistance as an auditor in the direction of the Society's finances was always valued very highly, and his death removed one whose services had always gained the apprcciation of the officials and members alike.

## Chapter XI.

### 1886.

AT the beginning of 1886, an effort was made to run branch butcher shops at Wooley, Oakenshaw, Tow Law, and Cornsay, but not one of these had a long run. The best cuts of beef were sold at 7½d. per pound, other parts 7d., and hough at 5d. The Society, as yet, had not started to buy live cattle, but obtained their supplies from local butchers.

The Half-yearly Meeting of members asked for a more detailed cash account in balance sheets in future, and it was decided that the following items were to be shown :— Investments, coal and coke, printing, and all items of over £10.

On March 6th Mr. Fred. Brown was appointed assistant counterman, and he still serves the Society in the Central grocery department. Mr. Robert Wm. Hall was engaged on March 24th, and he worked in the office until his regretted death on August 25th, 1915, at the age of forty-three years. He was much esteemed by all his fellow-employees.

The first Quarterly Meeting held at Waterhouses was in March, and Mr. W. Heslop presided. For the first time, scrutineers for counting the votes for officers were appointed, and these were :—Messrs. G. Bowes, J. Pinkney, W. Ellis, G. Harrison, T. Pearson, and J. Young. The committee were empowered to erect a much-needed slaughter-house at Crook ; and it was also decided to become members of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited. Appeals from Thornley and Wheatley Hill for assistance were refused, owing to so many of our own members lacking employment.

In May there was some idea of launching out a little more in the departmental line at Howden-le-Wear, and this introduced the question which has often been raised :—" How long would the local coalfield last ?" The committee deputed Mr. Patterson to interview Mr. Lishman in the matter, namely, " as to the probable duration of the coalfield at Howden-le-Wear." Mr. Patterson reported—Mr. Lishman's opinion was " that the coalfield would soon be exhausted !" This settled the question of any extension at Howden, but we cannot help thinking that the exhaustion period has been a fairly lengthy one. Following this, the committee came to terms with Mr. T. A. Brown for the purchase of his land near the Crook railway station for £345, on which to build a slaughter-house, and the building of the latter was allotted to Mr. G. Lister and Sons, whose tender was £297 5s. 0d. ; whilst subsequent additions cost £62 13s. 0d.

In June the business of clock and watch repairs was started. For a time watches and clocks were sent to Magner Bros., Hull, and then Mr. Moses was appointed to do the work on the Store premises.

A valuable stack of hay belonging to the Society was set on fire, and a reward of £20 was offered for information as to who had started the blaze.

The foremen were allowed this year to take one week holiday ; other hands were granted four days.

Ten thousand circulars were distributed around the district, advertising the rise and progress of the Society.

On October 6th Mr. Abe Butterfield and Mr. James Scott were engaged. The latter was a son of Mr. John Scott, Wooley, and afterwards went to America, where he died. Mr. Butterfield rose to be a chief clerk and assistant to the secretary. His sudden death, in March, 1907, was much lamented, for he was a clever and popular workman ; in addition he was a very smart athlete as a runner, cricketer, and footballer.

The new premises in Station Street, Waterhouses, were completed, and arrangements were made for an opening ceremony on October 30th. Charles Fenwick, Esq., M.P., and John Wilson, Esq., M.P., were invited to assist at the function, but both were unable to be present. The proceedings took the form of a Public Tea, Meeting, and a Concert, and the Waterhouses people did honour to the occasion by turning out *en masse*, for the event had been eagerly anticipated. Almost all the members, with their wives and families, were present at the Tea, which would have been a greater success had there been more eatables. The caterer, who hailed from Durham, had prepared for scores instead of for hundreds, and after the first sitting-down, the remainder fared but moderately ; in fact, there was no food left at all for the employees and others who assisted, and they were entertained to a feast a fortnight later. Nevertheless, the affair passed off enjoyably and with enthusiasm. At the Meeting and Concert, Mr. Henry Bowes, Mr. Thomas Binns, Mr. Ernest Foster, and Mr. Matthew Davison were among those who took a leading part. Not the least important of the items on the excellent programme was Mr, Davison's singing of his song, " Co-operation," in which, on his own favourite " fiddle," he was his own accompanist. Altogether it was a happy gathering, and will live long in the memory of those who were present to give encouragement to the local Store and the co-operative movement in general.

In December the Society gave a guarantee of seven years, at the rate of £8 per year, towards the installation of a telegraph office at Waterhouses. The furniture instalment system was also introduced. £2 worth of goods was given towards an effort for providing dinners for poor children in the town.

Miss Caisley was head of the Crook millinery department from 1883 to 1886, when she left to marry Mr. Edward Brougham. Miss Cockburn was appointed, and stayed until 1888. Her successor was Miss Laing. The

latter left in 1891, and Miss Gardiner, who took her place, only stayed a year. Miss Sayers and Miss Robson next held an equal position. The latter took full charge when Miss Sayers left in 1894.

1887.—On January 12th, Mr. John Wilkin, South Shields, was appointed as the first managing butcher at Crook. Mr. F. Bennett was engaged as watchmaker.

Much controversy had been occasioned over the "extras" in the erection of the new Stores at Waterhouses, and Mr. Savage, architect, was called in to arbitrate. The builder, Mr. Walton, had received a sum of £2,800; and the matter finally ended by the arbitrator allowing in his favour another sum of £182 5s. 11d.

On February 14th Mr. John W. Turner and Mr. George Wilkinson were engaged. The former afterwards became managing butcher at Crook, and the latter was also, later, appointed to a similar position at Waterhouses.

On April 6th Mr. Wm. Askew was engaged, and still remains with the Society at their Howden branch.

The committee decided to nominate Mr. Burnip for the Bishop Auckland Board of Guardians, and he was successful at the ballot. This position he held for many years.

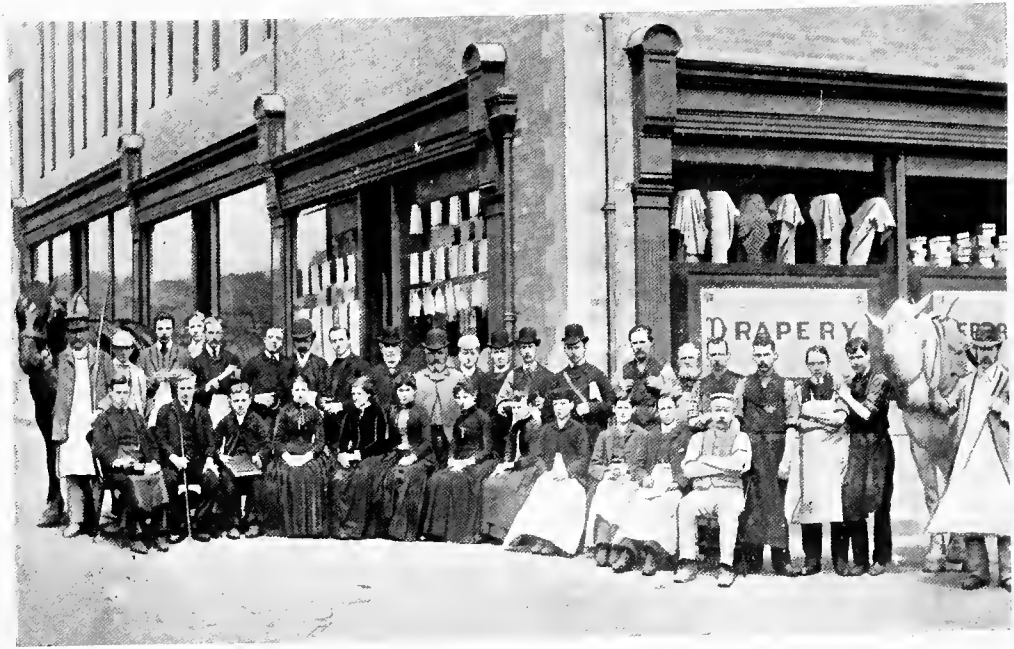
This particular year was a black period for our neighbours resident in Northumberland, where the colliers were on strike. In almost every part of the coalfield in that county trade was stagnant, and poverty and sickness were common mates in hundreds of pit rows. Our Society made every effort in rendering some help to the sufferers. First of all, a recommendation was sent to the Co-operative Wholesale Society that a grant of £100 be given out of the reserve to the Miners' fund; then it was next decided to circularise our own members as to whether we should help, and to what extent. The members agreed by a majority to forward £100, of which eighty-five per cent. had to go to Union men and fifteen per cent. to non-unionists. This was in April; and we

would have expected that, being able to contribute to their less fortunate fellows, would have been sufficient reason for an expression of thankfulness from even those who had been against the grant; but the grumblers were not to be appeased. By July the matter had become so acute that, after declaring a dividend of 3s. in the £, it was decided to repay the sum of 16s. 8d. to each of the members who objected to the grant having been made. When the August General Meeting was gathered, the chief topic naturally was the £100 grant; and to guard against any trouble of a like character arising at any future time, it was finally agreed, on the motion of Mr. T. Parker :—

> "That all future subscriptions should be collected from individual members."

In August the cabinet-making industry was started at the Central, and the secretary accompanied Mr. R. Thompson to York to buy timber. Mr. W. Gray resigned his seat on the committee to take up the work as cabinetmaker at log prices. Mr. Thomas Davison was appointed to the vacancy on the committee, and, shortly afterwards, Mr. Joseph Pedelty resigned his seat; this was allotted to Mr. James Hacker.

A peculiar form of investment might here be noted. This was the purchase of two pairs of tourist glasses——"The Gordon"—at a cost of 30s. These were loaned to members who required them, at a charge of threepence per day, or one shilling per week. Three thousand nine hundred almanacs—"The Gathering of the Clans"—were also bought this year. Overtures were made to the committee of the Mechanics' Institute, asking on what terms members of the Society might participate in the benefits of the Institute on Saturday nights. The terms not proving acceptable, the Quarterly Meeting decided that the committee room should be utilised on Fridays and Saturdays until nine o'clock, for the purpose of reading the newspapers of the day.




EMPLOYEES AT WATERHOUSES BRANCH, 1887.

In November the committee protested to the Bishop Auckland Society against their proposed opening of a branch at Willington.

£10 was given towards the road at Hamsteels, and £5 towards the building of the Jubilee Bridge, near Todhills. £10 was also allotted towards making a road at Cornsay.

1888.—Evidence of the happy feeling existing between the committee and the employees was shown by a recommendation which was carried at the General Meeting, that a Tea should be given to the servants of the Society :—

> "In consideration of the confidence the committee had in them."

This Tea, with an Entertainment, was held on Easter Monday, and the whole affair was a satisfying and thoroughly enjoyable success. The arrangements were carried out by Mr. T. M. Graham, Mr. J. J. Pedelty, and Mr. T. Norman. Mr. John Scott presided, and one of the special items of the proceedings was Mr. M. Davison's singing of "Co-operation."

The Mr. Norman mentioned above was a traveller in the service of the Society, and he afterwards took up a similar post with Messrs. Roberts, Mart and Co., Leeds, with whom he is still engaged. He married Miss Burnip, sister of Mr. William Burnip.

The February General Meeting was enlivened by Mr. Matthew Davison, a well-known Waterhouses member, who sang two songs—characteristic of the man—entitled : "Co-operation" and "Noah's Ark." The former song so pleased the members present, that copies were ordered to be printed and one sent to every member of the Society.

In April Mr. Henry Bowes was the recipient of a present from the committee, as a token of appreciation of his many efforts to ensure the success of the Society.

On March 21st Mr. T. W. Seymour was engaged ; and on March 28th Mr. Alfred Horner, now manager at the Stanley branch, was appointed.

In May the employees were granted a half-day holiday every Wednesday; this making a week of fifty-four working hours.

Paperhanging was commenced; the offer of Mr. John Sayers to do the work at fivepence per roll being accepted.

On November 14th Mr. J. T. Nall was engaged. He afterwards—in 1904—became manager of the Crook butchering department, a position he resigned in April of the present year.

The General Meeting decided that no more almanacs had to be purchased without the sanction of the members, and thus an old custom became extinct.

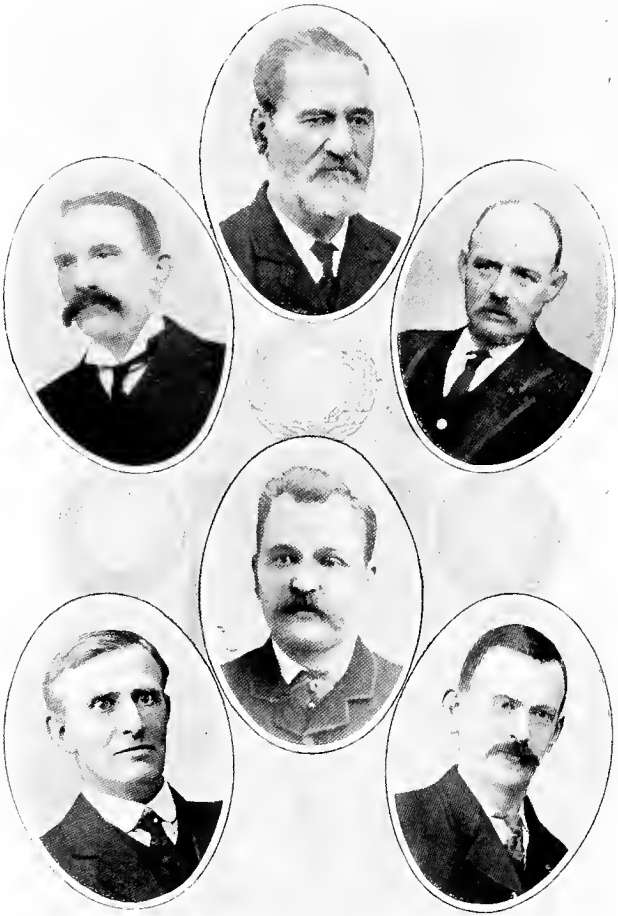
1889.—On April 24th Miss Hudson, the present manageress of the Howden drapery department, was engaged for the Central drapery department.

Mr. Herbert W. Langstone commenced on June 5th, and, later, became managing butcher at Waterhouses, which position he held till the present year (1915), when he was transferred to the post of managing butcher at the Central Stores.

Mr. J. R. Proud, who is now one of the Society's travellers, was engaged on August 3rd; and Mr. George Middlemas was appointed on August 14th; and after a long experience in the Central general office, he was recently given the post of cashier at Howden.

By the end of the June half-year the membership passed the fourth thousand, reaching, in fact, a total of 4,026, with a capital of £53,762 1s. 5d. to their credit. The Society's investments amounted to £22,103 17s. 3d., and were made up as follows :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Post Office | 4317 | 1 | 2 |
| Backhouse & Co | 2675 | 14 | 1 |
| North Eastern Railway | 1862 | 0 | 0 |
| South Eastern Railway | 2977 | 9 | 3 |
| London and Brighton Railway | 3737 | 9 | 3 |
| Midland Railway | 1300 | 0 | 0 |
| Anglo-American Telegraphs | 2400 | 0 | 0 |
| Co-operative Wholesale Society | 2782 | 12 | 3 |
| Derwent Mills and Co-op. News Society | 51 | 11 | 3 |



## OLD EMPLOYEES.

WM. PATTISON, Howden-le-Wear Boots Manager. 34 Years' Service.

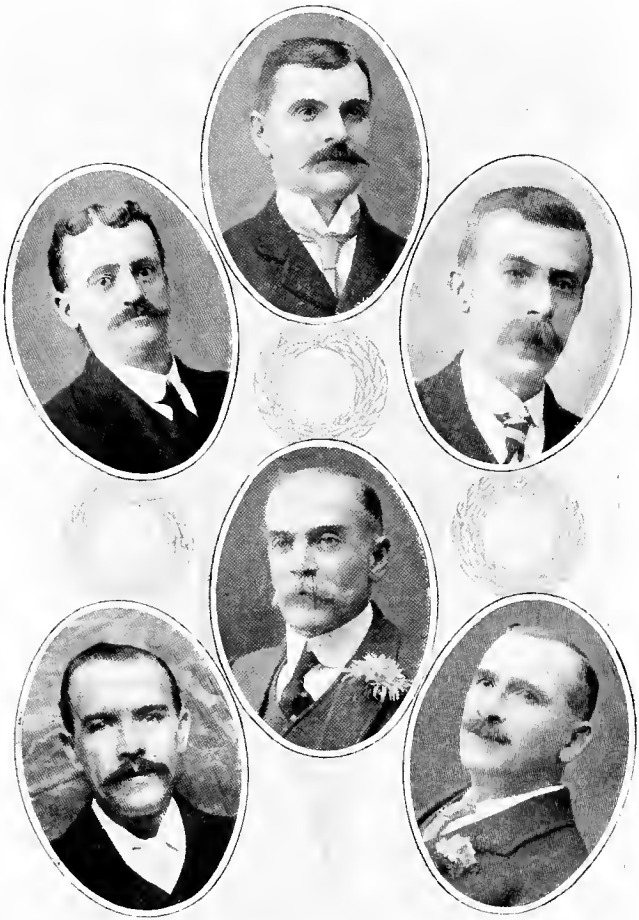
JAMES RACE, Warehouseman. 26 Years' Service.

THOMAS FRYER, Cartman, Howden Branch. 31 Years' Service.

W. RICHARDSON, Journeyman Tailor. 25 Years' Service.

JOHN NATTRASS, Journeyman Tailor. 25 Years' Service.

EDWARD J. JEFFREY, Journeyman Tailor. 25 Years' Service.



## OLD EMPLOYEES.

GEORGE WRANGHAM, Central Grocery. 32 Years' Service.

THOMAS W. SEYMOUR, Grocer, Stanley Branch. 27 Years' Service.

WILLIAM SIMPSON, Crook Grocery. 34⅘ Years' Service.

FREDERICK BROWN, Crook Grocery. 29 Years' Service.

JOHN R. PROUD, Traveller, Central. 26 Years' Service.

CHARLES CURL, Traveller, Central. 31 Years' Service.

The October Quarterly Meeting sanctioned an estimated expenditure of £200 for new stables and a blacksmith's shop at Waterhouses. This matter dragged considerably, owing to the inability of the committee to secure suitable land for the suggested erections. In the end it was agreed to alter the existing premises to meet the necessity. The old stables were added to the flour warehouse, and the cartman's house was converted into a stable, whilst the smithy was erected in the yard. The work was carried out by Mr. Jas. D. Carr, at a cost of £70.

For the post of blacksmith—which may be termed an outside position—Mr. J. J. Dodds was appointed, and he still continues to do the work.

1890.—On January 15th Mr. Christopher Rawe was appointed wagon-boy at Howden. He afterwards served at Crook, Waterhouses, and Howden. At the latter place, he became manager on Mr. Domville's retirement from the position. In April of the present year Mr. Rawe was the unanimous choice as general manager of the Society, in which position he gives every promise of ensuring the success of the Stores.

In June Mr. Wm. Burnip reached a happy celebration of twenty-five years of married life; and on June 11th it was decided by the committee :—

> "That we place on record our congratulations to the secretary on the celebration of his Silver Wedding, and also our appreciation of his services to the Society during the twenty-four years he has been secretary."

£2 2s. 0d. and £5 were given towards a road at Hedley Hill; and £20 was paid to Mr. J. Gill for land, to widen the back road into Hope Street.

1891.—Commencing in January the Society lost a valuable member of the committee through the death of Mr. T. Dunn, Peases West. The vacancy was filled by Mr. J. M. Allison, for many years a cashier at the Bankfoot offices.

In February it was decided that the large hall in the Waterhouses store should be let no more for concerts after existing contracts were closed, but that it should be made into a room for the sale of furniture.

On February 18th Mr. Mark Proudfoot was engaged as wagon-man. He is still in the service of the Society as flour warehouseman at Crook.

In March the agreement with Mr. Mazzucchi for the cleaning of the clock was terminated. An appeal from the employees for a subscription towards a cricket club which they were commencing resulted in £2 being granted. In April, Mr. Boothroyd, the tailoring cutter, gave in his notice, and Mr. Wm. Downie was given the appointment.

The May Quarterly Meeting agreed to an expenditure of £300 on additions to the Central grocery and drapery departments. Mr. Wm. Heslop prepared plans and specifications, and, in a very short time, the work was in the hands of the contractor. The result was the present commodious provision shop and the convenient carpet and oilcloth room.

It was decided that the only general holidays recognised by the Society should be Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Whit Monday.

On May 27th Miss M. Dunn was engaged for the Crook drapery—a department in which she is still a very useful and appreciated worker.

The Society again made considerable investments in various railway stocks ; but, notwithstanding the money these purchases absorbed, there remained an amount of cash on hand which was not bringing in a very remunerative return. The Society's bankers were then Messrs. Backhouse and Co., and, following an arrangement with them for a certain portion to remain on deposit, the committee considered ways and means of making further investments. An apparently promising solution was the building of houses in the district ; and the committee,

on appealing to the General Meeting, were allowed £1,000 for the purpose of their intentions. The first choice for a suitable building site fell on the Milburn Street district. This came to nothing. Then Mr. Heslop was instructed to prepare plans and specifications for three houses in Grey Street, and procure tenders for the erection of the same. In the end, however, the matter was ruled off the board ; the strike, which was threatening, and which did come very quickly afterwards, perhaps having a big bearing on the decision.

This half-year was a very memorable one for the Society. Year following year had seen great increases in the sales, and in this particular period the sum reached was £122,189 18s. 5d., which was the highest on record.

In the following half-year came the never-to-be-forgotten strike amongst the Durham miners. The distress, so noticeable in the 1879 strike, was, however, not very prevalent—thanks largely to the Co-operative Stores in the county, which were financed by the savings of the miners and of the other working classes. Many a prayer of thankfulness was heard that, by being members of the Stores, money had been saved, which enabled the crisis to be more happily faced.

## Chapter XII.

### 1892.

In February an appeal from the employees for a forty-eight hours working week was granted, and this resulted in a change in the hours of opening and closing. The most notable alteration was the opening hour, which was changed from 8 a.m. to 8.30 a.m.

In March came the pitmen's strike, and a decrease in the sale of goods was soon felt, which necessitated the employees being put on short time ; in most cases a day off every week being the rule. The position was further met by the employees taking their holidays, instead of waiting until the summer period. Considering the circumstances, it spoke well for the credit of the town and district that the withdrawals of share capital were by no means extraordinary. In a few cases, members were temporarily financially embarrassed, and the Quarterly Meeting generously came to their assistance by deciding that members in necessity should be allowed to overdraw their share money. By such actions do we more fully realise the value and solidarity of Co-operation. The outlook may have been black, yet this did not hinder the Society from progress, for, notwithstanding some previous opposition, which for a time had prevailed, it was decided to erect a slaughter-house at Waterhouses immediately. But this decision was challenged, and, at a special meeting, the opposition were successful on the motion of Mr. Cowell, seconded by Mr. Rudd, Howden-le-Wear. At the Half-yearly Meeting a ballot of the members was demanded, and this ended in favour of the erection of a slaughter-house.

In July Mr. Downie's connection with the Society, as tailoring cutter, ceased, and Mr. George Lyall, Darlington, was given the position. The latter proved a popular appointment, and he served the committee and members faithfully till his death in December, 1910.

October 19th.—The meeting on this day was the last presided over by Mr. Thomas Ashbridge, whose illness lasted till May, 1893, when death claimed one who had been one of the Society's ablest presidents. An honest man, whose every movement was of an open character, Mr. Ashbridge was a faithful officer of the Society, and he was the recipient more than once of a eulogy from his fellow-members on the committee for his straightforward and impartial dealing.

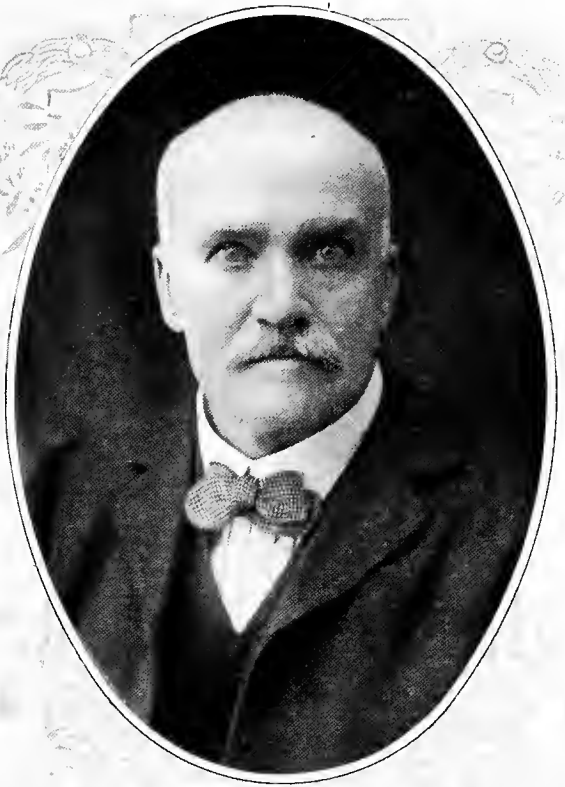
1893.—For the erection of the slaughter-house at Waterhouses, a site, containing three hundred and fifty-eight square yards of land, was secured from Viscount Boyne on a ninety-nine years lease, at £2 19s. 8d. ground rent per annum. Mr. Wm. Heslop prepared the plans and specifications. The building was commenced with in the early part of 1893 by Mr. Thomas Hilton, contractor, Bishop Auckland, whose tender was £703. In September the premises were ready, and business was commenced ; Mr. George Parkinson being appointed as working foreman butcher.

In the first part of this year the Society took a very active part in the promotion of the new road to Howden and Witton Park.

In October there were further extensions to the warehouse at Crook, carried out by Mr. T. Walton, for £200 ; he also added a sale shop at the slaughter-house, at a cost of £77.

In November there were alterations made at Howden-le-Wear, the work being carried out by Mr. J. Hare, at a cost of £115.

Mr. John Wilkin, as managing butcher, severed his connection with the Society. In his place Mr. Harry Turner was appointed as a foreman working butcher.



W. Arthur Smith, F.C.A.,
Chartered Accountant,
South Shields,
Professional Auditor to the Society,
1895 to 1915.

In September of the following year Mr. Turner left, to take over the butcher manager's position at Chester-le-Street, and his brother, Mr. John W. Turner, was elected to the position. The latter was a capable man, and was always popular with customers. His death, in April, 1904, was sincerely regretted.

Miss Hott was head milliner at Waterhouses from 1894 to 1896.

1894.—In April Mr. Earnshaw, the respected manager of the Waterhouses drapery department, died; and, on May 9th, Mr. John Potts, Tynemouth, was given the appointment.

A Special General Meeting was held on May 26th, with regard to the number of members forming the committee. There was a feeling amongst those present that seven was a large enough body to manage the affairs of the Society. The president—Mr. T. Pearson, Waterhouses—ruled that anything less than twelve was out of order, so the matter was dropped.

In July the Society suffered a distinct loss through the death of Mr. Wm. Heslop, Peases West, who had long been a valuable asset by reason of his assistance in all matters relating to the erection of buildings, etc.

The business of dressmaking at the Central, which had never fairly met with any success worth mentioning, was in this half-year discontinued.

£2,000 was invested in the Co-operative Wholesale Society; and a public auditor—Mr. Thomas Bradley, Stockton-on-Tees—was appointed to audit the books and accounts of the Society, at a fee of £20. Mr. Potts, of Waterhouses, was also appointed as a lay auditor. This, the Society's first effort at having a public audit, did not take place, as Mr. Bradley was not in the end able to take up the duties; in consequence, Mr. Aaron Wharton assisted Mr. Potts in the work.

1895.—The question of a public auditor was again raised at the General Meeting, and subsequently, on

May 1st, Mr. William Arthur Smith, F.C.A., South Shields, was appointed. Mr. Smith's ability at once met with general recognition, and he still continues to be the Society's auditor.

At a Special General Meeting in March there was a wholesale revision of the Rules. One Rule introduced was, " That not more than one member of a family could be engaged ; and an employee may have the same privilege of having one member of his family employed, but not in the same department." A proposed Rule, " that money may be advanced on property, both real and personal," was not accepted. The changes also permitted the holding of general and half-yearly meetings at Waterhouses. Arising out of this, the first half-yearly meeting at Waterhouses was held in the following August.

In July the question of holidays to the employees was discussed, and they were granted one week to each full-time worker, and eight days to each foreman.

£20 was given to the building of a house at Cullercoats, for the holding of " Co-operator No. 1 " lifeboat.

At the August General Meeting Mr. Smith, auditor, presented his first balance sheet, and he had a most hearty and encouraging reception.

In September Mr. Thomas Pearson, Tow Law, resigned his place on the committee, and Mr. John Turnbull, Tow Law, filled the vacancy.

1896.—At Waterhouses, in April, a tailoring bespoke department was commenced. Mr. Thomas Carr, Dipton, was the first appointment as working cutter. In this same month there occurred at Brancepeth Colliery a most dreadful disaster. At the May Quarterly Meeting the president—Mr. George Watson—made reference in feeling terms to the calamity. This was followed by a unanimous vote of £50 to the Relief Fund. Mr. James Henderson at the same meeting voiced a motion that Rule 7 be altered, so that members could only hold £100 capital, instead of £200, which had hitherto been allowed.

PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE, TREASURER, AND MANAGER, 1895.

*Back Row*—Joseph Middlemas, G. Smith, Jno. Race, Jos. Bowes, E. Milburn, J. Turnbull, T. M. Graham.
*Middle Row*—P. Frater, T. Pedelty, W. Burnip, H. Johnson, W. R. Heslop.
*Front Row*—T. Pearson, G. Watson.

PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE, TREASURER, AND MANAGER, 1896.

*Back Row*—T. M. Graham, G. Smith, R. Emmerson, R. Young.
*Middle Row*—J. Potts, T. Parker, W. Burnip, T. Pedelty, T. Pearson, J. Jobling.
*Front Row*—J. Turnbull, W. R. Heslop, T. Auton.

The members, however, were fairly unanimous in their vote against such a suggestion. It was, however, agreed that the interest on capital should be reduced from five per cent. to four per cent. per annum.

The committee recommended that delegates should be sent as representatives to the forthcoming Congress gathering at Woolwich, but the members decided against it.

Mr. George Lee, who commenced with the Society in 1880, was appointed foreman of the Central ready-mades department in June. This position he held until he met with a tragic death in 1911, when he was killed by a train near the Foundry Fields Crossing.

Miss Rowlinson, who had been with the Society for some time in the Waterhouses millinery department, was given the position as manageress when Miss Hott left. Miss Rowlinson held the position till 1903.

The Quarterly Meetings in November were notable for the presentation to Mr. W. Burnip of a handsome testimonial, which had been subscribed to by all members of the Society, as a token of esteem, and as a recognition of the valuable services he had rendered to the Society for thirty years. At Waterhouses Mr. Thomas Pearson, J.P., made the presentation ; and, at the Crook meeting, Mr. Wm. R. Heslop performed a similar duty. Both gentlemen spoke in the most felicitous terms of the recipient. Other speakers were :—Mr. Potts, Mr. Turnbull, Mr. Binns, Mr. G. Smith, Mr. Beadmore, Mr. R. Young, Mr. T. Auton, Mr. T. Pedelty, and Mr. J. Gilliland A special poem, dedicated to the occasion, by Mr. Beadmore, Waterhouses, was also read, and met with hearty appreciation. The presentation consisted of an illuminated address, beautifully designed and executed by Mr. F. Parker, White House, Howden-le-Wear ; a solid silver tray and tea and coffee service, all suitably engraved ; a gold albert ; also a gold watch and lockets to Mrs. Burnip. A handsome walking-stick was also an individual present to Mr. Burnip from Mr. D. Logan,

Mrs. William Burnip.

Waterhouses. Mr. Burnip voiced his thanks in a most appropriate manner, and made a brief survey of his thirty years' connection with the Society. This memorable occasion closed with a vote of thanks to the committee, on the motion of Mr. T. Binns, Waterhouses :—

> " For their prompt and effectual dealing with the presentation in bringing it to such a successful issue."

The wording of the illuminated address was as follows :—

" To Mr. WILLIAM BURNIP.

" Dear Sir,—At the yearly meeting, held August 8th, 1896, the members of the Crook and Neighbourhood Co-operative Society resolved to present you with a testimonial as a mark of their esteem and regard for you on the completion of your thirtieth year as secretary and general manager of their Society. When the Store was formed in 1865, the membership was 130 ; capital, £200 ; and the turnover for the first year, £4,500. Now the membership, including the branches at Waterhouses and Howden-le-Wear, is 4,960 ; capital, £101,432 ; and the annual turnover, £200,000.

" We believe this prosperity is due largely to the conspicuous ability you have shown as manager,—your knowledge, not only of the general principles of business, but what contributes so much to the stability and prosperity of an establishment, of its details—your masterly grip of every department ; nor can we omit to mention your high moral character, your sterling integrity, your open candour, your scrupulous honesty, and your thorough impartiality.

" We wish, by this testimonial, to give to your descendants a lasting proof of our sense of the large share you have had in building up an institution which has done so much in fostering self-respect, thrift, and good brotherhood amongst the working classes, and also to strengthen the bonds of existing friendship.

" We, therefore, beg you may be long spared to hold the office you have filled with credit to yourself and satisfaction to us.

" Signed on behalf of the members,

*Committee :*

| | |
|---|---|
| T. AUTON. | T. PEARSON, J.P. |
| R. EMMERSON. | JOHN POTTS. |
| P. FRATER. | GEO. SMITH. |
| T. M. GRAHAM. | JNO. TURNBULL. |
| JOS. JOBLING. | R. YOUNG. |
| T. PARKER.] | |

*President :* W. R. HESLOP.

" *November 11th*, 1896."

In December the committee, on behalf of the Society, made an attempt at a much bolder form of investment than hitherto. This was in the form of the purchase of Thistleflat Farm, which stands in a fine picturesque situation near Woodifield Road. Their offer, however, of £4,000 to the owner, the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, was not accepted.

1897.—In January it was decided that in future all apprentices engaged, on reaching 14s. per week, must apply for re-engagement.

The Howden and Waterhouses branches' half-day holiday was changed in March, when Wednesday afternoon one week and Saturday afternoon on the baff week was granted. This remained the order of things until the weekly pays amongst the miners necessitated a reversion to the old method.

At the Quarterly Meeting in May, an appeal for a branch at Ushaw Moor failed to receive the sanction of the members.

Mr. G. Parkinson, foreman butcher at Waterhouses, left the service of the Society, and his place was allotted to Mr. George Wilkinson, from the Central shop.

£20 was sent as a grant to the assistance of the Rainton Society.

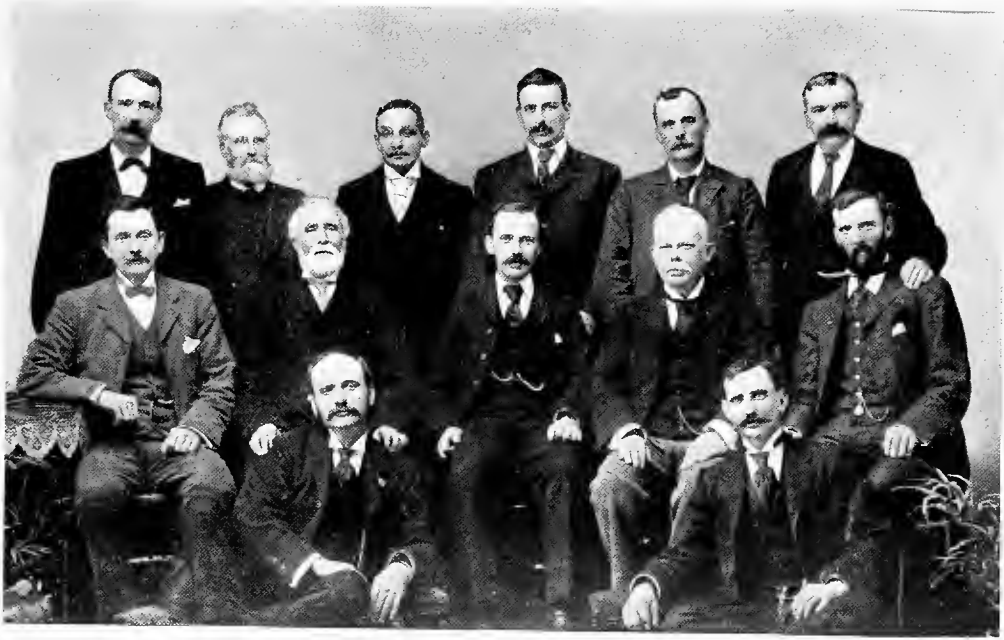
At the Central premises a hoist was erected at a cost of £120. This "pit shaft," as it often was called, was anything but a success, and in 1914 it was dismantled.

The system of buying goods under the supervision of the committee, which had often been challenged, was again considered; and, in the end, the following (Rule 24A) was agreed on:—

> "The general committee of management shall, along with the general manager and manager of each department, make all purchases relative thereto, and arrange and fix the prices to be paid and charged for the same. The manager of each department shall be responsible for the working of his or her department to the committee of management and the general manager."

PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE, TREASURER, AND MANAGER, 1898.

*Back Row*—J. Maddison, J. Stephenson, C. Thomas, J. Keogan, J. White, J. Shevels.
*Middle Row*—G. Slee, T. Pedelty, J. Wilkinson, W. Burnip, T. Winter.
*Front Row*—S. Trueman, W. English.



PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE, TREASURER, AND MANAGER, 1899.

*Back Row*—J. Keogan, J. Dack, W. Betton, C. Thomas, J. Harvey, J. Thompson.
*Middle Row*—J. Stephenson, T. Pedelty, J. White, W. Burnip, J. Maddison.
*Front Row*—W. English, S. Trueman.

This method continued till 1909, when it was decided :—

> "The foremen and managers shall buy, under the supervision of the general manager."

1898.—Mr. F. Scales, a well-known assistant in the Central grocery department, with twelve years' service to his credit, died in January.

At Waterhouses, in place of Mr. T. Carr, cutter, Mr. Beattie was appointed ; whilst, at Crook, Miss Robson, head milliner, left the service of the Society. Miss E. Coates, who commenced in the department in 1893, was appointed to the vacant position as manageress. In April Miss Fulton, who had been manageress of the Howden drapery department, left, and Miss Hudson went from Crook to the branch.

The Waterhouses premises up to this period had been lighted by oil lamps. A big improvement was now made by the introduction of acetylene gas ; Mr. J. J. Spoor, Bishop Auckland, carrying out the work for £250.

At the May Quarterly Meeting Mr. Edward Cook, Waterhouses, proposed :—

> "That in the opinion of this meeting the time has now arrived when we, as a Co-operative Society, ought to purchase at least half of its goods from the various Productive and Wholesale Distributive Co-operative Societies."

The motion was voted against.

Mr. J. G. Johnson resigned his position as boot manager at Waterhouses, and Mr. John W. Stoker was appointed from the Crook shop. Mr. George Nelson, Sunniside, left the committee, and his place was allotted to Mr. John Keogan.

In October Mr. John Parkinson, Waterhouses, died. He had been with the Society almost from the opening day, and his death was deeply regretted. His services had been of great value, and with the members he had ever been one of the most popular of the Society's

servants. To the vacant position of manager, Mr. George Parkinson was appointed.

1899.—£20 was sent to the Wigton Society to help them in their trouble.

On April 5th Mr. Robert Harvey Hall, Bishop Auckland, was appointed as a working cutter at the Waterhouses branch.

In November it was decided to advance money to members at four per cent., on good security; and, on January 3rd, 1900, the first sum of £100 was advanced.

At the November meeting circulars were read from the Low Beechburn and Stanley Colliery Miners' Lodges, petitioning the committee to build suitable cottages for workmen, in order to relieve the overcrowding of houses.

The question of better stable and warehouse accommodation at the Howden branch had for some months occupied the attention of the board, and finally a lease of land was obtained from Mr. Shafto, and the present buildings and other alterations were introduced, at a cost of £496 2s. 7d.

Mr. John W. Stoker, Waterhouses, died in April; and, on the same day as he was interred, Mr. G. W. Burnip was also buried. Mr. Robert Thompson, the well-known manager of the Central Furniture department, was present at each of the funeral services, and he, also, died a fortnight later, having caught a cold while attending the interment of his fellow-workers. Mr. George Lee was appointed to the vacancy at Waterhouses, whilst the managership of the Crook furniture department was given to Mr. Henry Tweddle.

The Society's period of stock-taking was changed from January 1st and July 1st, to take place three weeks earlier in each half-year.

At the November meeting Mr. T. Pedelty's thirty-five years' work as treasurer was fittingly recognised by a gift from the members, in the shape of an illuminated

address. The presentation was made by Mr. George Watson, who voiced the feelings of all the members when he referred to the long and untiring effort Mr. Pedelty had made in order to ensure the success of the Society. A handsome gold watch was also handed to Mrs. Pedelty.

A grant of £20 was made to the Indian Famine Fund.

1901.—Mr. Thomas Dale, a well-known employee, died in January.

£5,734 1s. 8d., which the Society held in the Post Office Bank, was withdrawn, and re-invested in the loan stock of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

The office accommodation at the Central premises had long been found wanting, and in the summer months steps were taken to improve on the old arrangements. Mr. Taylor, architect, Newcastle, drew up plans and specifications for the cash office, general office, and a necessitated re-arrangement of the outbuildings, and the work was finally done by Mr. William Machell at a cost of £318 10s. 0d.

In this half-year the sales totalled £133,173 0s. 8d. This is the highest record in the fifty years of the Society. Why subsequent periods showed a decrease, provides a question difficult to answer; but probably greater competition, more especially from the multiple shops which have sprung up, is responsible, to a large extent, for the reduced sales.

The August General Meeting passed a resolution that "dwelling-houses should be erected at Waterhouses."

A motion by Mr. Tallintyre, that a branch shop be opened at East Hedley Hope, was not successful.

## Chapter XIII.

### 1902.

AT the February General Meeting the chief topic of interest centred round the discussion, on the recommendation of the committee, that £3,000 to £5,000 should be set aside for the carrying out of a house-building scheme. Speaking on behalf of the committee, Mr. James Leonard and Mr. Thomas Pearson voiced the suggestions that thirteen houses be built in Cemetery Lane, Crook, on land belonging to Mr. Wm. Lister, at a cost of £205 to £215 each ; and that eleven houses in course of erection at Ushaw Moor be purchased. The idea met with the hearty approval of the members, who empowered the committee to proceed with the scheme. Negotiations were commenced with Mr. Thomas Walton, Crook, regarding the houses at Ushaw Moor, and the Society became the owners at a price of £2,310. The houses are now let to tenants at 5s. 6d. per week.

The carrying out of the scheme for the houses at Crook was a somewhat lengthy process before definite progress could be reported. The idea of purchasing Mr. Lister's land was dropped, and negotiations were begun with Mr. Walton for his land in Wheatbottom—just above Blades' Farm. In June it was finally agreed to buy 3,161 square yards at a cost of 3s. per square yard ; the total sum paid being £474 3s. 0d. This land was in the front ; and, in the following August, the land at the back was bought at 2s. 6d. per square yard. The last purchase comprised 6,973 square yards ; total cost, £871 12s. 6d.

Mr. Thomas Raine, Peases West, prepared the plans and specifications for fifteen houses, and Mr. William Lister's tender of £3,165, or £211 per house, was accepted. The houses are all very roomy, and the Society, when they owned them, charged a rent of 6s. per week. The purchase price to members was fixed at £250, and the last one was sold in 1912. The land at the back is still owned by the Society.

In February, Mr. W. Pairman was appointed watchmaker in place of Mr. F. Bennett.

The May Quarterly Meeting was notable for the following motion being carried unanimously :—

> "That we, as a Society, protest against the taxes imposed by the Government upon the working classes ; and, also, we protest against the Educational measure as a retrograde step in the abolition of School Boards, and in which the working classes are denied of popular control and their rights ignored."

£50 was given towards the expense of making the Howden New Road and the bridge near Witton Junction.

1903.—In February the Society invested £2,000 in the North Bitchburn Coal Company.

As summer approached it was noticed that Mr. Burnip was much in need of rest ; and, at the August meeting, the committee's report—that they had recommended a long holiday to the secretary—was heartily endorsed by the members.

£10 was voted towards a new bridge at Ushaw Moor.

The August Bank Holiday was at this period becoming more generally recognised by tradespeople, as well as at the local works and collieries. The Store employees had been granted a half-day on one or two of these occasions, but it was now agreed that—commencing 1904—the holiday should be observed, and the Stores closed for the whole day.

PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE, TREASURER, AND MANAGER, 1904.

*Back Row*—George Moor, J. Parker, J. Jobson, J. Bowes, R. Bell, R. Walton, C. Thomas.
*Middle Row*—J. Jobling, T. Pedelty, E. Milburn, W. Burnip, W. R. Heslop.
*Front Row*—S. Trueman, J. Robinson.

1904.—Mr. T. Simpson left the Society in April, as their branch manager at Howden-le-Wear, and he was succeeded by Mr. Domville. Mr. J. W. Turner, managing butcher, died in this same month, and Mr. J. T. Nall was appointed to the position.

At the November Quarterly Meeting Mr. Wm. Trotter, Howden,—a well-known member, and whose death during the present year (1915) was much regretted—made a strong appeal for a motion to be carried :—"That the selling prices should be reduced by at least fifteen per cent. on all goods sold by the Society." The matter was, however, ruled out of order. Suggestions were given to curtail expenses, by the employees being laid off an occasional day every alternate week, and by other methods ; but Mr. John White "urged a cheerful spirit."

1905.—Beginning 1905, the chief item was an agitation for a more central and more convenient butchers' shop at Crook. The question was brought before the notice of the February Meeting, and it was eventually decided to take a ballot of the whole of the members regarding the purchase of Mr. J. R. Hodgson's property in Hope Street, the total cost of which, after valuation, had not to exceed £1,325. The ballot went against the scheme by 2,767 votes to 868 for. The matter of a central place was not again raised until nearly three years later.

Trade becoming depressed, the suggestion to reduce expenses by the employees each lying idle one day per fortnight was introduced ; though, in the end, the workers suffered a reduction of two-and-a-half per cent. in wages, in order to work full time.

Mr. John Middlemas, a member of the committee, who was very popular as an overman at the Wooley Colliery, died in February. The vacancy on the board was filled by Mr. John Jobson.

In May the General Meeting decided that the dividends in future should be paid by the clerical staff on the

premises. Previously this work had always been performed by the committee in the Mechanics' Hall, which was engaged for this special purpose. Very large crowds gathered in the big room, for dividend day was apparently more of a red-letter day than is now the case.

Mr. John Stephenson, Ushaw Moor, brought a motion before the meeting, advocating the starting of a branch store at Ushaw Moor. It was decided to ballot the members on this motion, which resulted in 1,531 voting for the branch, whilst 1,969 were against it.

In this half-year the greengrocery business was introduced. After it had worked for some time under difficult conditions, so far as accommodation was concerned, a scheme was drafted and laid before a Special General Meeting in July. The committee asked for a grant of £3,000, to purchase land in the rear of the warehouse, on which to erect a suitable depôt for greengroceries and up-to-date and more commodious stables, with harness-room and other outbuildings attached. To this the members agreed ; and the land, on which some old property stood, was bought from the late Mr. John Bell, Relieving Officer, for the sum of £500. The site contained 406½ square yards. Originally, as a field, it had cost, in 1872, the sum of £36, or 1s. 9d. per square yard. Mr. F. Livesey, Bishop Auckland, was appointed architect, and, following the approval of his plans and specifications, the tender of Messrs. Wright and Freeman, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was accepted at £2,176 10s. 0d. ; the work to be completed by May, 1906. Then occurred a rather remarkable thing. The contractors had evidently made some miscalculation in their tender, for the matter had to receive the re-consideration of the committee. A meeting was arranged, and the tender was cancelled ; the contractors agreeing to pay a forfeit of £70. This was followed by the acceptance of Mr. T. Walton's tender to do the work at a cost of £2,449 16s. 6d., and he was allowed up to July 16th, 1906, to complete the work. When it was finally finished, the new

erections proved a valuable addition to the Society's premises.

Towards the end of the year there was some idea of taking a lock-up shop at Esh Winning, for the purpose of a branch, but this fell through. A similar fate also befel an idea of selling part of the land at Wheatbottom to the Wesleyan Church for the erection of a Mission Chapel.

1906.—Early on in this year Mr. Burnip failed rapidly in his health, and signs were not difficult to see that soon the Society would lose its invaluable head. A sad coincidence, also, was the fact that Mr. T. Pedelty was nearing the end of his life's journey ; his death eventually happening on July 4th. Thus ended a period of forty-two years' splendid service. Just previously it had been decided to do away with the post of treasurer, the secretary having to bank all moneys himself with Messrs. Barclay and Co., who were thus made nominal treasurers to the Society.

On July 25th came the second hard blow of the year, Mr. Burnip died. Regret was everywhere widespread, for all recognised that by his decease one had gone who was not only an asset of the Society—the district had also lost a valuable man, who had done useful work in many ways, and had rendered great assistance in public life and to his fellow-men. His funeral, on July 28th, was attended by a large gathering, comprising all classes of the community. It was a fitting tribute to a great man, who had spared not himself for the benefit of others.

A successor to Mr. Burnip was not immediately decided on. Some years previously an idea of dividing the offices of manager and secretary had been aired, but did not find favour. Those who were of the opinion that separate appointments should be made thought that a favourable opportunity had now arisen, and, at a special meeting in September, it was agreed to ballot the members as to their feelings in the matter. By 1,903 to 1,422 votes, it was decided that two appointments should be

made. Mr. John Lowther was, a few months later—on January 30th, 1907—appointed general manager; but the secretarial office, being then an appointment in the hands of the members, was not definitely filled until August, 1907, when Mr. Thomas Burnip, brother of Mr. W. Burnip, who was head cashier, and had all along been acting as secretary *pro tem.*, was selected unanimously. A revision of the Rules afterwards placed the appointment of the secretary in the hands of the committee.

At the August General Meeting votes of sympathy were passed with the families of the late secretary and the late treasurer.

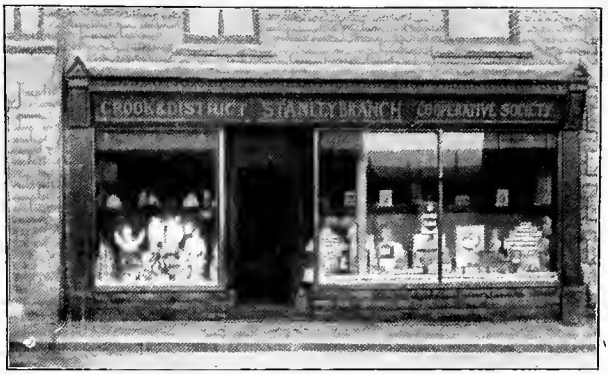
Mr. Stephenson, Ushaw Moor, on behalf of the committee advocated the starting of branches at Tow Law or Sunniside, Stanley, Willington, and Ushaw Moor. This recommendation was agreed to. At the same meeting Mr. Thomas Bell, Wooley, presented a carefully-detailed scheme, advising the purchase of a motor wagon, and this also was sanctioned.

In the middle of August Mr. Thomas Richardson, Central boot manager, died. He was succeeded by Mr. George Brabban, an employee who had commenced with the Society in September, 1892.

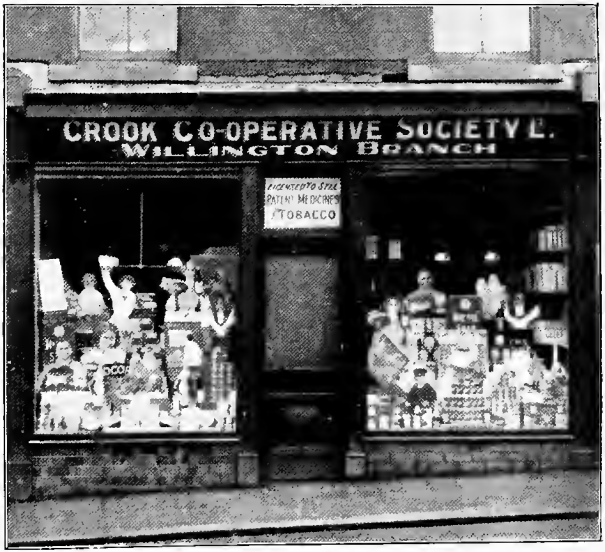
For the purposes of branch shops, one of the Society's houses at Ushaw Moor was utilised; and, at Stanley, premises were rented from Mr. T. Grinling. The latter shop proved somewhat inadequate, and, later, a move was made into a shop owned by Mr. Wm. Hunter. Both branches were started in October. Mr. Robert Robinson was placed in charge of the Stanley branch, while Mr. Charles Smith was given the other appointment at Ushaw Moor.

At the November Quarterly Meeting Mr. James Hacker and Mr. William Dickinson were mover and seconder of a motion, which was carried :—

> "That this meeting recommend the committee to purchase to the extent of seventy-five per cent. from the Co-operative Wholesale Society."

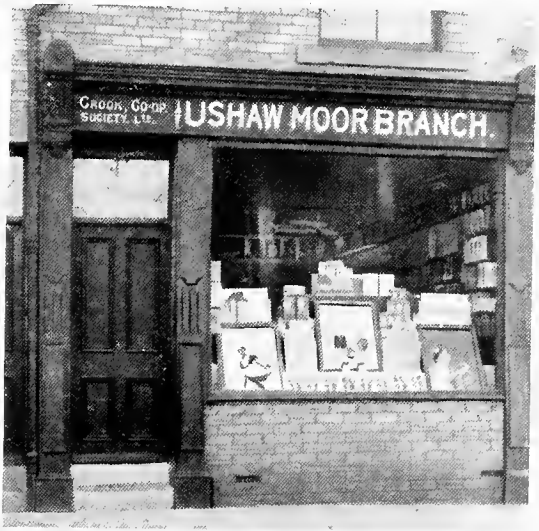



STANLEY BRANCH.




WILLINGTON BRANCH.

SUNNISIDE BRANCH.




USHAW MOOR BRANCH.

MANAGERS.

William Moses, Howden-le-Wear Branch.

H. W. Langstone,
Central Butchering. 26 Years' Service.

William Shevels,
Waterhouses Butchering.

## BRANCH MANAGERS.

ALFRED HORNER, Stanley.
27 Years' Service.

T. P. CAIRNS, Sunniside.
12 Years' Service.

R. PEARSON, Ushaw Moor.
22 Years' Service.

GEORGE SMITH, Willington.
13 Years' Service.

A branch shop at Sunniside commenced in December, in premises rented from Mr. J. Stevens. Mr. John Thompson, from the Central provision department, was placed in control.

1907.—At the Half-yearly Meeting the question was again raised relative to the purchasing of at least seventy-five per cent. from the Co-operative Wholesale Society Mr. James Hacker proposed that this be done, but the motion this time did not carry. The meeting also discussed the allowance to be made to any employee happening an accident whilst engaged on the Society's work, and it was agreed that half wages be paid pending the introduction of the Compensation Act, which came into force in the following July.

On March 30th Mr. A. Butterfield, who was accountant and assistant to the secretary, died very suddenly. The vacancy was allotted to Mr. Edward Lloyd, who first started with the Society on December 21st, 1891.

At Waterhouses, Mr. George Wilkinson, managing butcher, died, after a long illness, and he was succeeded by Mr. H. W. Langstone. In May, at Waterhouses, the Society also lost a valued boot manager in Mr. George Lee. The new appointment to this position was given to Mr. George Jackson, who had been with the Socicty from 1899.

At Crook, the inconvenience of the slaughter-house shop for the sale of meat was again brought to the notice of the board. Perhaps the fact that the manager's house was unoccupied had some influence on the movement, for, in the end, it was decided to annex the front room and convert it into a butcher's sale shop. The plans were prepared by Mr. Thomas Ellison, Crook; and Mr. Wm. Lax's tender of £60 was accepted for the necessary alterations.

In May Mr. T. Hill, a well-known schoolmaster at Waterhouses, secured an improved position at Horden. He was succeeded on the committee by Mr. John Sillett

At Wheatbottom, the land in front of the houses built by the Society was offered to the County Council as an addition to the existing road, on condition that the Society were exempt from any further expense.

In June Mr. Tom Auton, who had been president of the Society in 1897, met with his death—the result of a cycling accident near the Parish Church. A vote of sympathy was forwarded to his widow and family.

Mr. R. W. Hall, who had succeeded Mr. Henderson as warehouseman at Crook in 1901, left in August, Mr. Wm. Moses being appointed to the position. The foremen were granted ten days holiday annually. Full-time employees were allowed a week, and apprentices four days.

The Society secured a five years lease from Mr. Elliott of his premises at Willington, where a branch was opened in December. Mr. Chas. Smith was drafted from Ushaw Moor to take charge ; and, at the latter shop, Mr. Ralph Pearson was appointed.

The committee met a deputation from the employees' union (branch of the A.U.C.E.), relative to wages, and finally they agreed to the following :—

> "That the list of wages prepared be accepted on the following conditions :—The employees to receive a $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in the 5 per cent. the county miners get, and no reduction to take effect after the employees lose the $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. again until the county rate is down to 30 per cent. below the present wages, and then no advance to be given until the county rate rises again to $47\frac{1}{2}$ per cent."

1908.—In January Mr. Wylam Richardson, who had been a traveller for many years, was appointed to the Central cash office. Mr. William Leighton was engaged to take charge of the watchmaking and jewellery department.

The May Quarterly Meeting agreed to additions being made to the stables at Waterhouses, and these were

## DEPARTMENTAL MANAGERS, CENTRAL.

GEORGE HENRY WALTON, Grocery, 22 Years' Service.

HENRY TWEDDLE, Furniture and Hardware. 22 Years' Service.

R. H. HALL, Tailoring Cutter. 16½ Years' Service.

GEORGE BRABBAN, Boots. 23 Years' Service.

NORMAN PEARSON, Ready-made Clothing. 15 Years' Service.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGERS, WATERHOUSES.

R. W. Wilkinson, Drapery.

Matthew Gibbon, Furniture.
25 Years' Service.

George Jackson, Boots.
15 Years' Service.

W. C. Smith, Grocery.
28 Years' Service.

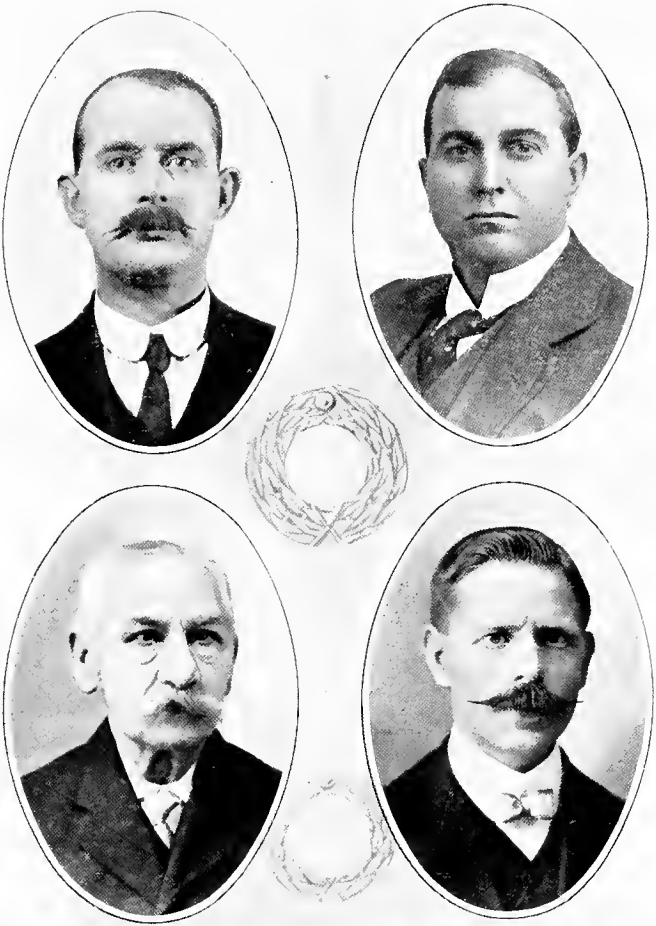
John Stephenson, Tailoring.
19 Years' Service.

Miss Coates, Manageress,
Central Millinery. 21 Years' Service.

Miss Jackson, Manageress,
Waterhouses Millinery.

Miss Hudson, Manageress,
Howden Drapery. 26 Years' Service.

Miss Unn, Crook Drapery.
25 Years' Service.



William Leighton,
Jewellery Manager, Central.

Thomas Rowe,
Greengrocery Manager.

John Whitfield,
Old Employee, 43 Years' Service.

John Dyson,
Boot Repairer. 26 Years' Service.

carried out by Mr. T. Walton, Crook, at a cost of £96. A branch was also suggested for Ferryhill; but this, so far, has not been introduced. With reference to branches, it is interesting to note that the late Mr. Wm. Burnip was not a great lover of the introduction of these shops. He always held to the opinion that the existing stores at Crook, Waterhouses, and Howden were sufficiently central for all possible requirements. Whether the branches have justified their existence is perhaps a debatable point, and many able arguments have been raised both for and against.

On May 27th it was decided to transfer the banking account from Messrs Barclay and Co.'s to the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Bank.

In June Mr. J. Thompson was transferred from Sunniside to Stanley, in the place of Mr. R. Robinson, who left the Society's service. Mr. George Glover was given the position at Sunniside.

At the November Quarterly Meeting a donation of £50 was made towards the Crook Aged Workers' Homes —part of a scheme which speaks volumes for the monumental enterprise of the miners of Durham County that a suitable resting place should be allotted to aged workers in their closing stages of life after strenuous toil.

The steam wagon, for various reasons, was counted a failure; and it was decided to sell it. The Society paid £466 for it, being sold, after only two years' service, for £100; so that, in addition to the fairly heavy repair expenses it had entailed, the experiment was not a successful one.

In December eight hundred square yards of land were bought at Mount Pleasant, from Pease and Partners Limited, for £100, on which it was intended to build new branch premises for Stanley. It was not, however, till five years later that the building was erected.

1909.—A popular employee, in Mr. Chas. Sillett, foreman of the Waterhouses grocery department, died in January, amid general regret. Mr. C. Rawe was transferred to the vacant position.

In March, Mr. George Hardy, who was checkweighman at Woodifield Colliery, on the latter being closed down, left the district, and his place on the committee was allotted to Mr. Thomas Deighton.

Mr. Edward Burns, who had been appointed warehouseman at Crook, died very suddenly in May. Mr. Charles Addison was appointed to the position in September.

Mr. Anthony Alderson, flour warehouseman, who had been with the Society for twenty-seven years, left in the month of August.

At the August General Meeting the question of the introduction of an up-to-date bakery was discussed by the members, who, in the end, decided against the proposal.

Trade became somewhat slack as this half-year neared its completion. To reduce the expenses short time was the order of the day for the employees.

## Chapter XIV.

### 1910.

TRADE continued to be of an unsatisfactory character; and, finally in May, the committee decided that the services of some of the employees should be dispensed with. Sixteen of the hands engaged in various occupations were given their notices. In addition, the remainder, for some weeks, worked short time.

In July one of the most important matters that ever occupied the attention of the members was discussed at a Special General Meeting. This was the question of a petition from Waterhouses that the branch should be granted separation from the Society, and arrangements be made for carrying out of the necessary transfers. Naturally enough the proposal attracted considerable attention on both sides of the hill.

The first of the special meetings was held at Waterhouses, and Mr. Wm. Jackson was voted to the chair. Mr. Wm. Forster was the mover, and Mr. William Gray the seconder, of the following motion :—

> "That it is desirable that the Waterhouses branch should be separated from the other section of the Society."

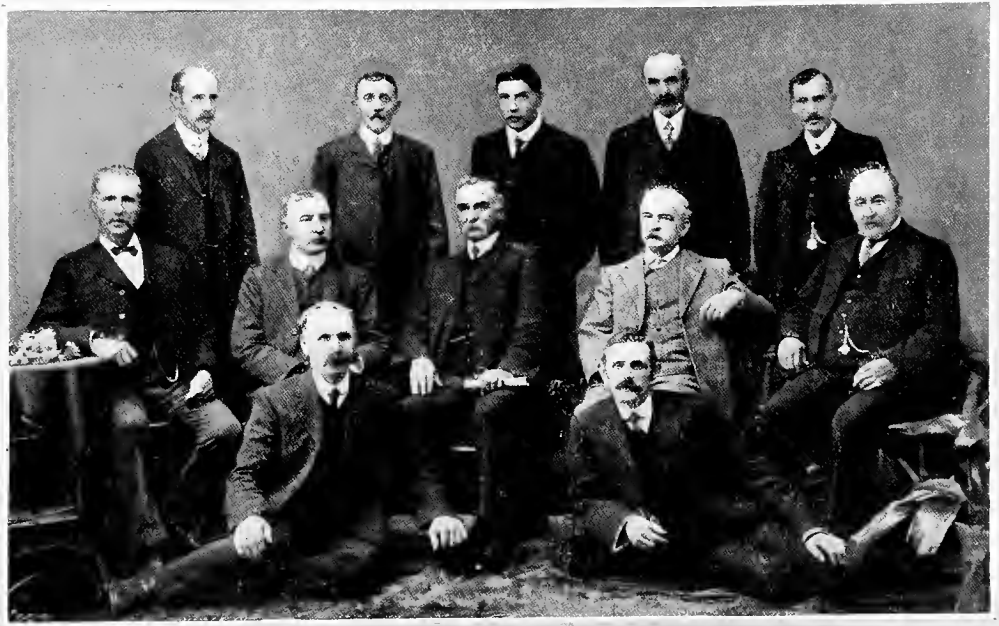
Various arguments were raised in support of the separation movement, and points were also urged against it. The motion was finally agreed to by forty-four votes to twelve. Mr. Robert Bell then suggested that such an important item should be placed before all of the members in the shape of a ballot before anything further was carried out. The Crook meeting, which followed, would, however, not sympathise with the proposal; and it was promptly moved, seconded, and carried that the whole matter "go off the board."

The Rules, as amended in 1909, came into operation at this period in the election of president. This took the form of a general vote of all the members, at the same time as the committee ballot took place. Mr. Thomas Winter, Crook, and Mr. Wm. Jackson, Waterhouses, were nominated for the office. In the result Mr. Winter received 1,794 votes, to 1,451 given to Mr. Jackson.

In September Miss Green vacated her position as head milliner at Waterhouses, and Miss Chambers was appointed.

The wage question again occupied the attention of the committee ; and, on October 1st, the A.U.C.E. scale was adopted. The board further agreed that in place of the 25s. allotted weekly to an employee on reaching twenty-one years, the amount should be not less than 26s. weekly. The former system of apprenticeship of five years for boys was to be continued ; while for girls in the Productive departments, a three years' apprenticeship was arranged, the wages to be 2s. 6d. first year, 5s. second year, and 7s. 6d. third year. All apprentices, at the end of their probation, were to make application for re-engagement, and if their services were retained by the Society, future advances in salary would be granted according to merit. The committee also decided that the consideration of all wages should occupy their special attention once in every six months.

At the Quarterly Meeting in November, it was considered a suitable time for the erection of new premises at Stanley, and the committee were given power to proceed in the carrying out of the necessary details. Mr. Bendle, architect, Newcastle, prepared a plan, and estimated the cost of such a building—which comprised a shop and two dwelling-houses—as he had sketched, to be somewhere about £2,000. To this large capital outlay the committee were not prepared to commit themselves. Matters dragged on for a while, and, finally, the question was laid in abeyance.



PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE, SECRETARY, AND MANAGER, 1911.

*Back Row*—T. Ellison, W. Collier, S. A. Meddick, E. Robson, V. Bell.
*Middle Row*—J. Race, J. Lowther, T. Winter, T. Burnip, Jos. Middlemas.
*Front Row*—T. F. Robinson, G. Armstrong.

PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE, SECRETARY, AND MANAGER, 1913.

*Back Row*—F. Rudkin, J. Armstrong, G. Smith, W. Musgrave, J. Sillett, J. Henery.
*Middle Row*—E. Dawson, J. Wilkinson, R. Young, T. Burnip, R. Dawson, A. Burnip.
*Front Row*—J. E. Gilliland, R. Hannant.

In December Mr. George Lyall, Central tailoring cutter, died, and he was followed by Mr. Robert Dixon, Blaydon-on-Tyne.

1911.—Mr. George Lee, manager of the Central ready-mades, met with his lamentable death in February. Mr. Norman Pearson, Waterhouses, who commenced in 1890, was appointed to the vacant position.

At the February Half-yearly Meeting much discussion was occasioned by the big loss of £269 0s. 9d. in the millinery department at Waterhouses. In the same month, at Waterhouses, the manager of the drapery department, Mr. John Potts, left the services of the Society. He was succeeded by Mr. Alfred Wood, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

At the May Quarterly Meeting it was decided that Mr. Thos. Winter, president, and Mr. Wm. Jackson, Waterhouses, should be the Society's representatives at the Annual Congress, which was to be held at Bradford.

In May Mr. Alfred Horner was given the appointment of branch manager at Stanley, in place of Mr. John Thompson, who had gone to the Swalwell Society as general manager.

The June half-year saw the introduction of the Leakage System amongst the several departments.

For the presidency the nominations were :—Mr. T. Winter, Crook ; Mr. S. A. Meddick, Crook ; and Mr. G. Watson, Tow Law. The voting resulted in the election of Mr. Winter, who received 1,620 votes, whilst Mr. Meddick's total was 1,053, and Mr. Watson's 676.

The claims of the Aged Workers' Homes movement were again successfully urged at the August General Meetings, and £50 was voted to the erection of the dwellings at Esh Winning.

It was decided to commence classes on "Co-operation" for both adults and juniors. Mr. Robert Dawson, Crook, and Mr. W. Forster, Waterhouses, were appointed teachers. The senior classes, unfortunately, made no

headway, and were soon discontinued. The juniors, however, made a brave show, and at each of the classes progress has been made in the study of "Co-operation," which must ultimately bear forth fruit, when, in their maturer years, the students are facing life's struggle. Prizes in the shape of books and certificates are given each Winter Session. From a study of the examination papers, the children are showing considerable ability and an intelligent interest in their work.

Mr. R. Dixon, the Central tailoring cutter, did not remain long with the Society. He left to take up a similar post at Medomsley, where he died very suddenly a few months ago. Mr. Robt. H. Hall, the cutter at the Waterhouses branch, was given the position at Crook; and Mr. John D. Stephenson, from the Central, who commenced with the Society in 1896, was drafted to the Waterhouses position.

1912.—For some months an effort had been made at Bowden Close to run a Co-operative Store. Towards March, however, of this year, it was made known that the affairs of the new Store were not in the best of condition, and an appeal was made to our Society to take over the assets and liabilities, with a further view to continuing the Store as a branch. Mr. Meddick, Mr. Pearson, and Mr. Winter, with the manager and secretary, were appointed to make a special report as to the desirability of taking the concern. Their report finally ended the further consideration of the scheme, for it was at once decided not to accept the offer. It was not long after this that the Bowden Close Store was a thing of the past. It had attracted, by its convenience, a few of our members; though only a very small number really withdrew.

In July the president—Mr. T. Winter—was the recipient of hearty congratulations on his appointment as a County Magistrate. For only two months and two weeks had he the privilege of exercising his right to an honour granted to him for a lifelong service in the

interests of his fellow-men. In the month of August he went to Ireland for a much-needed holiday. Whilst in Erin's country he died, and few could believe the telegram announcing his death. The suddenness was appalling. By his death the town, as well as the Society, were alike poorer. In Mr. Winter's absence Mr. Meddick acted as chairman ; and then the yearly ballot saw Mr. Robt. Young, Roddymoor, appointed as president. He received 1,981 votes against 184 given to Mr. J. Stephenson, Waterhouses, and 138 to Mr. J. Jobling, Waterhouses.

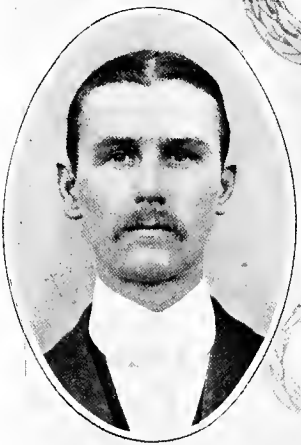
1913.—At the beginning of this year Mr. William Domville, in February, left the service of the Society as manager of the Howden branch. The position was given to Mr. Rawe, Waterhouses. Mr. C. Smith was transferred from Willington to Waterhouses, and Mr. Geo. H. Walton, Waterhouses, whose engagement with the Society dates from 1893, was appointed branch manager at Willington.

In March the system of paying the miners and other colliery workers every week instead of fortnightly came into vogue. One effect of this was to cause a reversion back to the half-day holiday on Wednesdays only, at the Waterhouses and Howden branches, in place of the alternate Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The method of making members accounts up once a fortnight is still carried on throughout the Society's business, but it has been noted that the introduction of weekly pays has resulted in a very large increase in the cash sales over the counters.

Miss Chambers left the Waterhouses millinery department in May, and Mrs. Harris was appointed.

The question of the Stanley branch was raised at the May Quarterly Meeting. The committee reported on the excessive expenditure the building would entail if built in anything like the ideal of the plans drawn. The meeting also was unanimous that it was too heavy a price to pay, and, in the end, they carried a motion



WYLAM RICHARDSON,
Cashier, Central.
31 Years' Service.

GEORGE MIDDLEMAS,
Cashier, Howden-le-Wear Branch.
26 Years' Service.

R. TURNBULL,
Cashier, Waterhouses Branch.
34½ Years' Service.

JOHN ARMSTRONG
Clerk.
34 Years' Service.

empowering the committee to build new premises at a cost not exceeding £1,000. Mr. Wm. McIntyre, Tow Law, was the new architect appointed, and his plans and specifications proved very acceptable. Tenders were invited, and Mr. Jas. W. Lowther, contractor, Peases West, was given the work, at a cost of £823 10s. 0d., for the building of the premises, and a further £108 for the shop fittings, fixtures, etc. The new branch was all complete by May 2nd, 1914, on which day a happy gathering of officials and members took place at the opening ceremony. Mr. Wm. Musgrave, Hunwick, presided, and, following a few short speeches, the chairman handed a gold medal to the president, Mr. Robert Young, as a memento of the occasion. The premises are an acquisition to the Society, being most commodious and convenient throughout. In addition to the sale of groceries and provisions, a room is set apart for boot repairing purposes, this work keeping two workmen fully employed.

Mr. T. Parkin, cashier at the Howden branch, after twenty-eight years' able service, left the Society in May, and was succeeded by Mr. John Armstrong, from the Central office.

The nominations for the office of president were :— Mr. Robert Young, Roddymoor, and Mr. George Watson. The former was again returned by 1,974 votes to 1,209.

Mr. Lowther, as the summer months advanced, had much ill health, and extra holidays were allowed him, by which it was hoped he might regain his old health and strength. This hope, however, was never realised, and, in September, Mr. Lowther intimated his impending resignation. To be fully prepared to meet the coming vacancy, the committee decided to advertise at once for a general manager, and, in October, Mr. Jonathan Wilkinson, general manager of our neighbouring society at Willington was appointed. Mr. Wilkinson commenced his new duties on December 1st.

At the November Quarterly Meeting the members gave Mr. Lowther a hearty vote of thanks in recognition of his thirty-eight years' service to the Society, seven-and-a-half years of which he had been general manager. On his retirement the committee also voiced their appreciation of Mr. Lowther's lengthy and valuable connection with the Society. Unfortunately, Mr. Lowther lived but a few weeks to enjoy his well-earned rest. In January his health again failed, and he eventually passed away amid general regret on January 22nd, 1914. A letter of condolence from the committee was forwarded to Mrs. Lowther and her son, Mr. A. Lowther. At the interment, on the following Sunday, there were present among the large company, the officials and employees of the Society. The latter subsequently erected a handsome memorial over their late chief's grave.

At the August General Meeting Mr. John Oliver, a representative from the Co-operative Wholesale Society, was present, to give to the members an explanation of the Life Insurance Scheme. Mr. Oliver was heartily applauded at the close of his very lucid address, and it was decided to embrace the scheme, which, in a few words may be stated to be one of the most helpful movements ever introduced into the co-operator's world. Since our Society adopted the idea, up to August 26th, 1915, there were two hundred and fifteen claims paid, which absorbed a total of £1,606 0s. 4d., or an average of £7 9s. 5d. per claim. The scheme ensures the definite insurance of every member or member's wife. When the death of either of them takes place, the Society only requires a certified copy of the Registrar's certificate ; and, after the necessary calculations have been made, the money is at once paid over to the surviving claimant or claimants, without any further trouble or fees. Already, though the scheme has had but two years' trial, we know of innumerable cases where the insurance money from the Store has been received with tearful thankfulness.

The Sunniside branch premises next occupied attention, owing to its lack of accommodation and its somewhat

insanitary condition. The building came into the market, and, with the approval of the members, the Society opened negotiations, and bought the property at a cost of £250. Mr. McIntyre drafted up a plan of alterations, which were carried out by Mr. Jas. W. Lowther, at a cost of £99 10s. 0d., and the result has been a nice commodious store.

In this half-year the committee decided that all employees had to become members of the A.U.C.E.

The hours of closing at the Waterhouses branch were re-considered, and it was decided that on alternate Saturdays, the premises should close at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. The other days' closing times were :—Monday, 7 p.m. ; Tuesday, 6 p.m. ; Wednesday, 12.30 p.m. ; Thursday, 7 p.m. ; and Friday, 8 p.m.

1914.—Mr. Wilkinson, the new manager, was introduced to the members at the February General Meeting, and was well received. He made great changes in the arrangements of the departments, including the boarding-up of most of the large bench in the general warehouse, and the introduction of a useful set of new fixtures, etc., in the Central grocery department. He advocated in favour of a motor wagon being introduced, and this received the sanction of the May Quarterly Meeting of members. The motor was purchased from the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, at a cost of £513. The new machine gives promise of a more successful issue than the first experiment in this line gave ; in fact, the satisfaction it has given, coupled with the shortage of horses, has led, in the present year, to an order being given for a second motor.

In June Mr. Alfred Wood, Waterhouses branch drapery manager, left the Society to take up a similar position at Cramlington Stores ; his successor being Mr. Robert W. Wilkinson, from Skelton.

Mr. G. Glover was transferred from Sunniside to Howden, and Mr. G. Wranghan went from the Central to be branch manager at Sunniside. The latter expressed

a desire to be relieved, and he was given a place at Howden; and Mr. Wm. Moses, from the Crook shop, was appointed to Sunniside.

The month of August arrived, and with it the most terrible war of all times commenced. The cry for recruits went through the land, and the committee promptly issued notices to employees that any who would enlist should receive half-pay, and their places kept open

J. Wilkinson, General Manager, 1914.

for them awaiting their return. Circumstances, however, have arisen which have necessitated a change in the latter decision. All enlistments of employees now receive separate consideration. The members also, at the general meeting, discussed the question of subscribing to the War Relief Fund, and £50 was voted to

the Prince of Wales' Fund ; £50 to the Belgian Fund ; and £5 worth of goods, as a Christmas gift, to Durham soldiers who were fighting their country's battles. Up to the time of writing this history, the following employees have joined the forces :—

ROBERT HOPPER, Tailor (Waterhouses).
JOHN ARMSTRONG, Boot Repairer (Howden).
JOHN W. COLLINGS, Clerk (Central).
GEORGE FRAZER, Tailor (Central).
ROGER DUFF, Tailor (Central).
NORMAN GARDINER, Grocer (Stanley).
GEORGE HALL, Greengrocer (Central).
MARK FAWELL, Greengrocer (Central).
J. J. METCALFE, Grocer (Waterhouses).
T. ROUTLEDGE, Grocer (Waterhouses).

For many years the Society has generously acknowledged the services rendered to the community by the Newcastle Royal Infirmary and the Royal Lifeboat Society, by making an annual donation of £10 each to these deserving institutions ; in this year it was also agreed to give a special gift of £20 to the Royal Infirmary Radium Fund.

Miss Jackson, in August, succeeded Mrs. Harris as head milliner at Waterhouses.

Mr. John Wylam, schoolmaster, Waterhouses, was given the post of instructor to the Waterhouses Junior Class in " Co-operation."

For the presidency, Mr. William Jackson, Waterhouses, and Mr. George Watson, Tow Law, were nominated. Mr. Jackson was successful by 1,860 votes to 1,702.

1915.—At the February Half-yearly Meeting of members it was agreed that the Rules be altered, so as to admit of thirty—instead of fifty—being a sufficient quorum for the purposes of General and Special General Meetings. That number—fifty—had oft-times proved an obstacle in the way of a prompt start at many of the

CHRISTOPHER RAWE,
Present General Manager.

members' meetings, and, especially at Waterhouses, we have vivid, though humorous, memories of the rushing out into the bye-ways and highways—and other places as well—in order to induce straggling members to attend in sufficient numbers for the progress of the meeting. It was also decided to advance money on properties built on leasehold land. This latter addition to the Rules was a very necessary one in the interests of the Waterhouses members, for in that district all land, practically without exception, is leasehold. At this meeting, also, a long discussion was occasioned by the striking difference shown in the profits made in the working of the several grocery departments. The committee were instructed to give the question their closest attention, and matters were the reverse of pleasant to all concerned before the affair was considered settled. In the end, Mr. Wilkinson's services as general manager ceased ; and the committee invited Mr. Christopher Rawe, from the Howden branch, to become the general manager. He accepted the responsibility which such a position necessarily entails ; and, in the short time he has held the post, signs are not lacking but that he will be a successful introduction.

Mr. Geo. H. Walton was brought from the Willington branch shop to be foreman of the Central grocery, and another appointment was at the same time made in Mr. Thomas Rowe, who came from the Esh Society, to be Central greengrocery manager. Mr. George Smith, Willington, who commenced with the Society in 1902, was appointed to be branch manager at Willington. Mr. Rawe took up his new position on May 10th ; Mr. Thomas Burnip, secretary, having meanwhile acted as manager *pro tem.*

The vacant branch managership at Howden was allotted to Mr. William Moses, Sunniside branch manager; and Mr. Thomas P. Cairns, Waterhouses, who started in the service of the Society in 1903, was given the latter position.

In April Mr. J. T. Nall, Central butchering manager, resigned, and Mr. Herbert W. Langstone, the branch manager of Waterhouses butchering department, was given the appointment. He was succeeded at Waterhouses by Mr. Wm. Shevels, Burnopfield, who, in his earlier years, had served his apprenticeship with our Society.

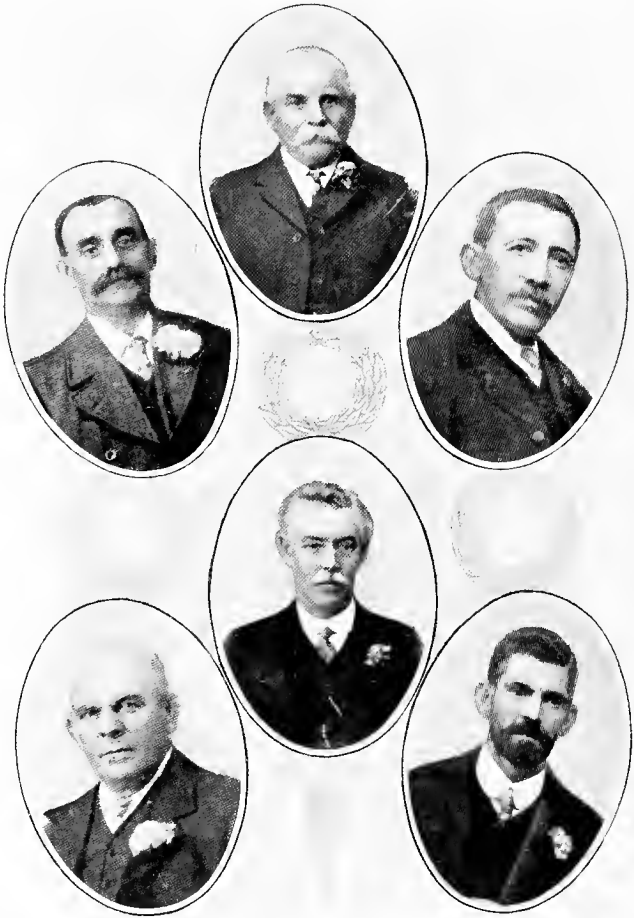
At the May Meeting one was absent who had long been a familiar figure at like gatherings ; this was Mr. William Trotter, Howden-le-Wear, whose death had just taken place. A hearty vote of sympathy was passed by the members with his relatives.

The question of the celebration of the completion of the Society's fiftieth year was discussed, and it was thought that, in view of the present war crisis, rejoicings of an outward character would not harmonise with general affairs. The committee recommended the publication of a *History of the Society's Proceedings* during the fifty years, and also that a suitable souvenir be given to each of the employees. The meeting, however, decided against the suggestions.

In June Mr. George Middlemas was transferred from the general office at Crook to be cashier at the Howden branch.

The last investment of the Society before the half-century closed was, perhaps, one of the most notable in its history. This was the £1,000 placed in the War Loan. Our first pioneers, could they rise again, would, we are certain, marvel that such an occasion had arisen which called forth sacrifices from all, that the country might be freed from its enemies, and the whole world from a tyrannous scourge.

The Half-yearly Meeting of members in August was chiefly engaged in a strong criticism on the loss of £400, which occurred in the Central butchering department. The question of a Jubilee History being prepared was again brought before the notice of the meeting, and this was agreed to.



JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

JOHN HENERY.

JOHN SILLETT.

EMMERSON DAWSON.

ANTHONY BURNIP.

GEORGE SMITH.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

GEORGE WM. DENT.

ROBERT RYLE. JOHN THOMAS AINSLEY.

JOSEPH ROBINSON. RALPH CAYGILL.

With regard to the war bonus to employees, the committee reported that they had granted, in the first place, an extra 2s. weekly to married men, and 1s. to single employees. This, however, had not proved acceptable to the employees, and another offer had now been laid before the local executive of the A.U.C.E., which was as follows :— Apprentices, 1s. per week ; single men, 1s. 6d.; married men up to 42s. per week, 2s. 6d. ; 42s. to 48s. per week, 1s. 6d. ; above 48s. per week, 1s.

Mr. Wm. Jackson, Waterhouses, was returned unopposed as president.

To mark their appreciation of his services to the Society, in addition to the recognition of the fact of his occupancy of the presidential chair at the Society's Jubilee period, the committee presented him with a handsome gold watch.

## Chapter XV.

HAVING concluded our record of events during the half-century of the Society's career, little remains to be stated beyond a short survey of the general affairs of the Society. That it has met with a success beyond the wildest dreams of our pioneers cannot be denied. Perhaps we are still far from being in a perfect state, so far as ideal Co-operation may be said to go, but a continuity of experience and new experiments will clear away many of the imperfections which may exist. The Society has been a great factor in local history, and, as a trading concern, its operations have been on a truly gigantic scale. Since the first parcel was passed over the counter in 1865, the total sales of the Society have been £7,605,955; and the profits—which have been divided amongst the members who made them—total £1,198,121. Out of the latter total, thousands of pounds, even when drawn out of the Society, have been re-invested in houses, etc.; whilst, at the present time, the 5,025 members have a capital of £149,118 to their credit in the Society, or nearly an average of £30 per member.

The total yearly sales latterly are a decrease as compared with those of about fifteen years ago, but signs are not wanting that the Society is again on the up grade; and a continuance of the prosperity of the district will, without doubt, be followed by increased sales. Even as it is, the present purchases work out at nearly £40 per member per annum, and this will compare very favourably with other Societies in the country.

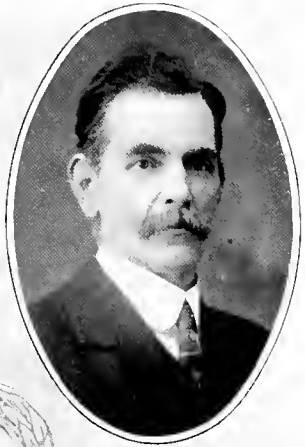
The Society has 167 employees in its employ, made up as follows:—Central, 105; Waterhouses, 47; and Howden, 15; whilst the 5,000 and odd members are

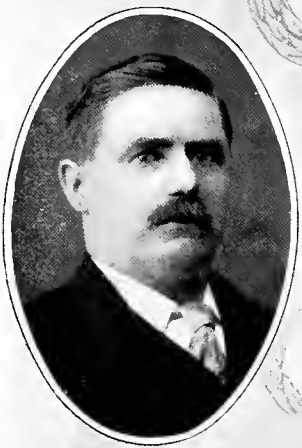
apportioned :—Crook, 3,400 ; Waterhouses, 1,000 ; and Howden, 600. Of the original members, a few are still with the Society ; while of those who joined at Waterhouses when the branch was opened out there, the following are amongst those who still trade with us :—Mrs. Dorothy Hymers (widow of the late Mr. Thomas Hymers), Waterhouses, who is the oldest resident in the village ; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hayson, Hedley Hill Terrace ; Mrs. Sarah Pearson, (widow of the late Mr. William Pearson), Esh Winning ; and Mrs. Bessie Parker (widow of the late Mr. Robert Parker), Waterhouses.

The advancing of money on property to members has met with much success and appreciation. Since the scheme was first commenced in 1899, the total sum of £34,960 has been advanced, and of this £17,930 has been repaid to the Society. The mode of procedure to procure an advance is very simple. The Society's advance is limited to two-thirds of the value of the property which members may be desirous of buying. The interest charged is 4 per cent., and repayments are due at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

The Society's investments total £90,994 2s. 11d., mainly laid out with the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, and in railway and colliery shares. The house property is valued at £1,699 8s. 1d., and the fixed and live stock at £3,501 4s. 11d. The reserve fund is £1,045 1s. 3d. The Society's trading premises are valued at £12,298 7s. 7d. The stocks in all the departments are usually about the value of £16,000. Considering the size of the Society, neither of the foregoing items can be stated to be unreasonable.

Our final lines will be devoted to a necessarily curtailed account of the characters of those who have held a prominent connection with the Society in the half-century's affairs. Whilst, admittedly, there are others who are deserving of more than a mere passing mention, yet we trust the selection we have made for special reference will meet with general acceptance ; and,





PART OF PRESENT COMMITTEE.

George Armstrong, J.P.
Alexander Pinnington.
Samuel Candler.
A. B. Weatherald.

further, we trust that the notes will be accepted in the spirit in which they are written, namely, a desire to pay humble tribute to some of those who have been in the main responsible for the successful growth of the Society.

The outstanding figure has been **Mr. William Burnip,** secretary and manager for forty years, from 1866 to 1906. The history of the Society in that period may almost irrefutably be termed " the history of William Burnip "; and, *vice versa*, those forty of the best years of his life may be said to constitute the history of the Society. We would have a long search ere we found another Society whose career was so much bound up with the individualistic efforts of one man. Mr. Burnip was born in 1841, in the Hunwick district, and at an early age came with his parents to reside in Wheatbottom. He was one of a family of ten, of which five were boys and five were girls. Of these, four are still living, in the persons of Mrs. Norman, Newcastle-on-Tyne ; Mrs. Lister, Liverpool ; Mr. Thomas Burnip (present secretary) ; and Mr. Anthony Burnip, Crook. The subject of our sketch—Mr. William Burnip—on reaching manhood, married Miss Crawhall, a member of the Crawhalls of Stanhope —a very old and respected family. Mrs. Burnip, now in her seventy-fifth year, is still happily enjoying the best of health at her home in St. Mary's Avenue. How Mr. Burnip came to be introduced to the Store effort has already been given. It was truly a move of instinct which led the pioneer members to appeal to him to take up a position which at that time teemed with heavier responsibilities than came with the ten times larger business of the after years. The members were lacking in confidence previous to Mr. Burnip's arrival, but, with his appearance, pessimism was ground out of sight under the genius of the new star that had arisen in the firmament of the local Co-operative world. One of Mr. Burnip's chief characteristics was determination, and he faced the situation of 1866 in a manner that at once stamped him as a conqueror of difficulties. With Mr.

Hayton's death he was early given his chance, and how well he succeeded can only be poorly gauged even by a study of the phenomenal rise of the Society. In 1867 the sales were £8,895; and thirty-five years later, in 1902, they were £259,898. That every portion of this success was due to him alone would, perhaps, be too much of an over-statement. Others there were who helped, and helped very materially, yet the leader—the master hand—the Napoleon of the whole concern—was Mr. Burnip. He educated both himself and others by the experience of Co-operative affairs which daily came under his notice. As the years rolled on his labours never wearied. The Society's interests, aspirations, and development were made, as one might say, his own. The secretarial work passed through his hands in a masterly manner, so complete was his knowledge of matters financial and otherwise. His work also, as a manager, was of the highest excellence. All his dealings were marked with the soundest judgment, and his keenly alert business instinct never failed him. In his dealings with the employees under his command he coupled fairness with discipline. With the members he was deservedly esteemed right up to his regretted death in 1906—a death which deprived the Society of one whose name will ever be remembered as a great and mighty worker.

But mention must be made, before we conclude this tribute, of Mr. Burnip's connection with more public affairs. He was a member of Wesleyanism all his life, and found great acceptance as a local preacher; whilst for years his class was always a continuing success. In addition, he was voted to seats on the Auckland Board of Guardians, the old Parish Council, and the Urban Council. He was Chairman of the Guardians, and also of the Urban Council. On each occasion he was, by virtue of his office, given the appointment of Justice of the Peace. His interests in the political world were firmly vested with the Liberal Party, and he was many times chairman of the meetings held to further the cause of

Liberalism. At his decease all classes joined in a last farewell to one who, by his life's work, had enriched the town and district by the nobility of his labours.

**Mr. Thomas Pedelty** was treasurer for forty-one years. He was born at Gunnerside, in Yorkshire, in 1822, and came to Crook in the year 1847. He died in July, 1906. Mr. Wm. Burnip's death came three weeks later. That two men, so inseparably connected through their official positions, both in the Society and elsewhere, should die practically at the same time, was more than a coincidence ; it was the most tragic happening in the annals of the Society. Mr. Pedelty first joined the movement on October 5th, 1864, and became treasurer on August 16th, 1865. In his forty-one years' service, it is better imagined than calculated how much work he did for the Society. In the first few years he was the strong man of the party of pioneers. Every reliance was placed on him, and he never shirked his duty. Day after day, as soon as his ordinary occupation at the Bankfoot Works permitted, he put in an appearance at the shop, and worked with the other hands till closing time ; after that, remaining to examine and help in the preparing of the accounts. One may truly state that for ten years at least he sacrificed himself that the Society should prosper. Over and above the assistance he gave in the shop, he had to make the journey on foot for a long time in all sorts of weather to Waterhouses, to bring the cash to Crook to be banked. This early interest on behalf of the Society he maintained until his death. In May, 1900, after thirty-five years' service, the members gave a token of their appreciation of his efforts by presenting him with a beautifully illuminated address, in which striking allusion was made to his splendid labours for the Stores. Outside the Co-operative movement Mr. Pedelty had an active connection with the Wesleyans. He held every office in the church, and was a class leader. At one period he held a seat on the old Parish Council, when his son, Mr. J. J. Pedelty, was also a member of the same public body.

**Mr. Henry Hayton,** the Society's first manager, was a Durham man. His mother kept a public house in the latter city, and part of Mr. Hayton's education was obtained at Goundry's Evening School ; a scholar at the same period being Mr. Thomas Armstrong, Grey Street, who, with Mr. Benj. Coates, ranks as one of the few of the original members still alive. Mr. Hayton, during his short term as manager, gave every evidence of achieving good results ; but, very early on in his career, his health completely failed, and his death followed after a few weeks' illness.

**Mr. John Siddle,** the first secretary of the Society. was for many years a well-known resident in the town, He had all the rough work in connection with the origination of both the Mill and Co-operative Store efforts. He must have had more than average ability to have successfully negotiated as he did the preliminary secretarial work. He did not remain long in office after the Store commenced, for he apparently resigned the post of secretary in October, 1866. Mr. Siddle, later, held a responsible position as inspector at Pease and Partners' works. He died in 1880. One of his daughters is married to Mr. Thomas Hilton, contractor, Bishop Auckland, whilst, about five years ago, another daughter became the wife of the Rev. F. G. Chambers, Manchester, who for some time was Presbyterian minister at Crook.

**Mr. John Dawson** was an auditor for eighteen years. He worked in the weigh office at White Lea, and was a mathematical genius. His great ability in this line was a rare source of help to the Society in its younger days. Mr. Dawson, who for many years held the post of Clerk to the Burial Board, is generally credited as being one of the most able men ever resident in the town. It is said he once walked almost all the way to London in order to transact some business in which he was interested. He died in 1885. A clever man, who, perhaps, was only foiled by opportunity from rising to greatness.

**Mr. Henry Stoker** was co-auditor for many years with Mr. Dawson. He resided at Peases West, and is best remembered as one of the most brilliant of science teachers in the North of England. Pupils trained by him are now occupying responsible positions in every part of the world. He left Crook about 1892 to take up an important position at Nottingham as science master, a position he held until his death, which occurred a few years ago. Mr. Stoker's son—Mr. Joseph Stoker—was for some years surveyor to the Crook Urban Council, and has now a prosperous business in Canada.

**Mr. Thomas Burnip,** the present secretary of the Society, has forty-three years' service to his credit. He is a brother of the late Mr. Wm. Burnip, and was born in Crook. For about thirty-five years he held the post of cashier, and, in 1907, succeeded his brother as secretary. His value to the Society cannot be over-estimated. No Society has ever had a more faithful servant. Years of experience have given him a wonderful hold of the affairs of the Society ; and his pronounced ability in all financial matters has, time after time, proved an invaluable help. Outside Co-operation, he has not taken any part in public affairs, though last year he was appointed an assistant Overseer. He also held the office of secretary to the Mechanics' Institute for twenty-seven years.

**Mr. John Lowther** was in the service of the Society thirty-eight years, seven of which he was general manager. He was given the latter position in 1907, and this he finally resigned in December, 1913, on account of his ill-health. His death took place some two months later, in 1914. For thirty-one years he was engaged in the grocery department, first as a counter hand, and afterwards, in 1883, he was appointed foreman. Both as foreman and, later, as general manager, his business abilities were very helpful to the Society. In other public affairs he also took a prominent part, being for nine years a member of the Urban Council. Of this

body he was chairman in 1910, and by virtue of the office, was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

**Mr. John Parkinson,** who was manager of the Waterhouses branch from 1871 to 1898, when he died, was first employed at the Crook shop in September, 1865. He hailed from Shildon, and during his service with our Society was always very popular with all the members. A steady, plodding, and careful manager, his work met with every approval, and he was, in a great degree, responsible for the progress made by the Store at Waterhouses. He was highly esteemed and respected by all classes, and evidence of this was seen when he was given a position on the Durham Board of Guardians.

**Mr. George Parkinson,** manager of the Waterhouses branch, has been with the Society for forty-four years. He first commenced in 1871, in the old shop in Hamilton Row. His indentures as a bound apprentice were signed on New Year's Day, 1872. When the first premises in Russell Street were erected, he was placed in charge of the cash office, and this work he was engaged in till the death of the manager—his uncle, Mr. John Parkinson—which took place in 1898, when the committee unanimously gave him the highest appointment at this the Society's most important branch. In this position he has served the Society in a faithful and praiseworthy manner. His able superintendence has been no small factor in the success of the Waterhouses branch. He holds the fullest confidence of the committee and members.

**Mr. John James Pedelty,** drapery manager at the Central, is the holder of an almost unique record. He started at the age of eleven years to serve the Society, in a very humble position. To-day he is still with us, after practically fifty years' service; the only break being for some few weeks in 1879, when he went to work at Skelton. He has grown and lived with the Society, and has vivid memories of its ups and downs in its earliest days. His record is as honourable as it is lengthy. A keen and able buyer, a capable manager in every way,

he has carried his departmental duties out year following year in a manner which stands beyond reproach. He has spared no effort in securing satisfactory sales even in the slackest of trade periods, and the results in the shape of final profits have been strikingly uniform and highly creditable. Mr. Pedelty, who was born in Crook, has had a lifelong connection with the Wesleyan Church, and has held every office under the auspices of that body. He was a member of the old Parish Council ; and, as a member of the Freemasons, held the highest office as Worshipful Master in 1910.

**Mr. Wm. Arthur Smith, F.C.A.,** the Society's present auditor, has held the post for twenty years. Mr. Smith, whose offices are in King Street, South Shields, is professional auditor to the Borough of South Shields ; he also has an extensive clientele in the North of England. In addition to our Society, he has also the auditorship of the Co-operative Societies of Boldon, Esh Winning, Cornforth, Stanhope, etc. Since his first appearance at Crook, in 1895, he has always held the fullest confidence of the officials and members. His interest in the Society's affairs has never flagged from his opening balance sheet ; and time after time his advice, when sought, on matters affecting the welfare of the Society, has proved of the highest value. His work as auditor has not ceased with the closing of the accounts in each half-year, for he keeps himself fully conversant with the Society's transactions, and is ready at all times for consultation. His efforts on behalf of the Society—perhaps most particularly notable in the important transfers occasioned by the liquidation of R. Stephenson and Co.—have always been marked with great ability. As he himself says, he has a great friendship for the Society and its members, over and above his professional duties.

**Mr. Christopher Rawe,** the present general manager, has not as yet had many months' service in this capacity, his appointment only dating from May of the present

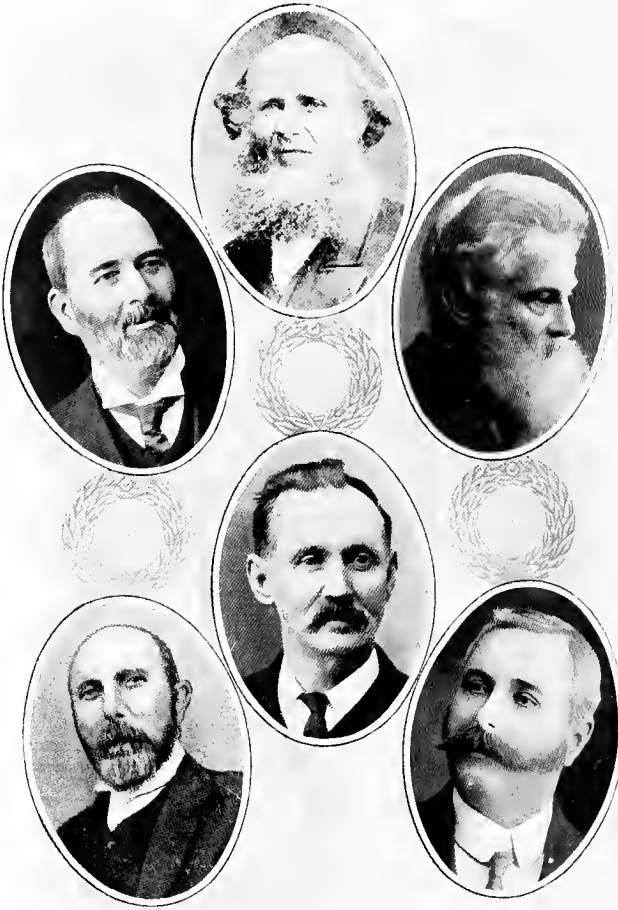
year. His career with the Society, however, dates back some twenty-six years, and the excellence of his service during that period has now, by his present appointment, met with deserved recognition. All his work has been marked with thoroughness ; and this, added to a natural ability, gives us promise that the committee's choice to fill the highest position in the Society's employ will undoubtedly prove to have been a wise one. Certain it is that Mr. Rawe will devote himself to a proper carrying out of the responsible duties which henceforth lie in his path. His lifelong association with the district and its customs and needs will also enable him to judge very materially as to the requirements of the Store's members.

Special mention might also fittingly be made of the long services of Mr. John Whitfield and Mr. Andrew Reid.

**Mr. Whitfield** was first engaged in 1872, and, after forty-three years' service, is still at the Waterhouses branch in the warehouse. Always ready with a happy retort, John is very popular with both his fellow employees and customers alike.

**Mr. Reid** has forty years' service to his credit. As one of the Society's accountants, he has much responsible and intricate work, and this he has discharged year in and year out in a most accurate and painstaking style. His books are models of correctness. The auditors on many occasions have complimented him on the high proficiency of his work.

**Mr. William Bland** was chairman to the Society for the first fourteen years, and joined as a member in September, 1865. Although he was engaged at the Bankfoot coke ovens, yet, originally, he had been a coachman of the old-fashioned type, and came from London to the North. Probably his wider experience of the world's doings gained for him the unanimous vote from his brothers on the Board that he was best fitted to take the chair. He lived to be ninety years of age, and is



PAST PRESIDENTS.

Joseph Patterson, 1880.

Thomas Pearson, J.P. (Waterhouses), 1893. Thomas Binns, 1886.

William R. Heslop, 1896 and 1905.

James Wilkinson, 1898. James Leonard, 1902.

## PAST PRESIDENTS.

THOMAS ASHERIDGE, 1888, 1889, 1891, 1892.

JOHN SCOTT, 1887 and 1890.

GEORGE WATSON (TOW LAW), 1894, 1895 1900, 1901, 1907.

TOM AUTON, 1897.

EDWARD MILBURN, 1903 and 1904.

JOHN WHITE, 1899.

remembered as a plodding and constant man, true to his fellows, and ever seeking towards the strengthening of our Society. His troubles as chairman would be many; and we to-day can bear tribute that his work ultimately met some recompense by the Society's subsequent success.

**Mr. Joseph Patterson,** chairman in 1880, died in 1907, at the advanced age of eighty-five years. He was at one time overman at the Roddymoor and Stanley Collieries. After a brief visit to America, he returned to reside at Howden, where, in addition to a shop business which he conducted, he also held the post of Rate Collector in the Bedburn district. As a member of the Wesleyan Church, he had a very long connection with that body, and was a local preacher for many years.

**Mr. Henry Bowes** was chairman in 1881, 1882, and 1883. He joined the Society or Mill on February 13th, 1865, and at once became a very active worker in its interests. He was a coke inspector at Waterhouses, and left no stone unturned to further the development of Co-operation in that district. A man of powerful stature, he likewise was gifted with a powerful will, allied with excellent powers of penetration and adaptation. It was chiefly owing to his endeavours that Mr. Wm. Burnip was secured for the work of the Society. Mr. Bowes had the fullest esteem of his fellows on the board of management. His death, on January 31st, 1890, at the age of sixty-one years, lost to the Society one whose services, both as a pioneer and continuing worker, cannot be over-estimated.

**Mr. Wm. Heslop,** Peases West, was chairman in 1884. In 1885, in the same office, he received the title of president. He was a well-known inspector in connection with Pease and Partners' works, collieries, and houses. On behalf of the Society he was constantly engaged in the drafting up of plans and schemes for new erections and for alterations to the existing buildings. He took a very keen interest in the Society's doings, and was often

prominent, both in committee and at the general meetings of members, with the proposition of important motions. He died in 1894.

**Mr. Thomas Binns,** Waterhouses, filled the presidential chair in 1886. He has been dead for several years, but the memory of him is still dear to many people on the Waterhouses side, where he held the position of Temperance Missionary. Through this post he was the means of many being turned into a better walk of life. No bluster—just a little quiet talk—and the seeds of truth which fell from his honest lips seldom touched stony ground. He had a great love for Co-operative work, and was often elected as chairman to preside over the general meetings of the Society.

**Mr. John Scott,** who was president in 1887 and 1890, was a well-known official at Wooley Colliery. He had a long connection with the Mount Pleasant Primitives, and was an able local preacher. He left the district about 1893, and emigrated to America.

**Mr. Thomas Ashbridge,** president in 1888, 1889, 1891, and 1892, was a highly respected man all over the district. He resided at Robin Hood, Stanley, and originally hailed from the Cumberland district. When trade became slack in the latter county, he walked the whole of the way to Shildon to obtain work. Afterwards he moved to Stanley, where he died in 1893. Mr. Ashbridge was all his life an ardent member of the Primitive Methodist cause, for which he laboured long and earnestly, both as a local preacher and a devotee to Sunday School work. By his death the district, as well as the Society, was the poorer, and much regret was expressed at his decease.

**Mr. Thomas Pearson,** the 1893 president, is one of the best-known and respected men in the Waterhouses and Esh districts. As a checkweighman, he has had a long and honourable service in the interests of the miners, and it is pleasing to note that his efforts have been received with every appreciation. He has held office on

PAST PRESIDENTS.

Thomas Winter, J.P., 1906, 1910, 1911.

Robert Young, 1908, 1912, 1913. Ralph Walton, 1909.

PAST AUDITORS.

Henry Stoker.

Varon Wharton. John Potts.

James Young.

Thomas Dover William Parker.

the Durham Board of Guardians and the Brandon and Byshottles Urban District Council. Whilst on the latter body he was appointed chairman; and, by virtue of his office, became a magistrate for the usual period. From these positions of honour Mr. Pearson finally, by reason of his ill-health, felt himself obliged to retire, amid general expressions of regret. In connection with the Society, his able services have always been valued very highly.

**Mr. George Watson,** Tow Law, has been honoured with the presidency on five occasions—in 1894, 1895, 1900, 1901, and 1907. He has always been very popular with the members, and, as chairman of the committee, his ability and impartiality gained for him admiration and respect from his fellow officials. At Tow Law he has had a lengthy and valuable connection with the local Primitives. Mr. Watson is employed as a keeker at the Black Prince Colliery.

**Mr. William R. Heslop,** president in 1896, has resided in Crook for many years. He is a checkweighman at the Roddymoor Colliery, and has had a long and honourable service as a miners' official. He was a member of the old Parish Council, and is at present on the Auckland Board of Guardians. Probably few men are better known in the district than Mr. Heslop, who was a very useful official of our Society.

**Mr. Tom Auton,** president in 1897, was known and respected over a wide area. In addition to being a popular Wesleyan local preacher, his able services as an elocutionist of no mean ability were constantly in demand at concerts, etc. He met with a cycling accident in 1907, from which he died. At the time of his death Mr. Auton was a School Attendance Officer.

**Mr. James Wilkinson** lived at Waterhouses when he was president of the Society in 1898. He was at that time an official of the Hamsteels Colliery, and was highly esteemed by the workmen. As a local preacher to the Primitives, his thoughtful sermons have still an abiding

place with those who heard them. Mr. Wilkinson is now resident at Thornley (Durham).

Probably few presidents have been better known amongst the members than **Mr. John White,** president in 1899. Year after year he has seldom, if ever, failed to attend the general meetings of the members of the Society. He has there spoken on topics of every kind which have come under the heading of Co-operative progress ; and no one can gainsay his ability in driving his points home. He has, moreover, been impartial in his criticisms—officials, employees, and members all receiving an equal share ; but the underlying motive was always the same—his earnest wish to further the success of the Society. Mr. White is now a resident at Wolsingham.

**Mr. James Leonard,** president in 1902, was very actively identified with the town and district. As a miners' official, he occupied office in all the most important executives in connection with the Durham Miners' Association, and was for six years chairman of the Northumberland and Durham Miners' Permanent Relief Fund. He was for nearly thirty years checkweighman at the Stanley Drift Colliery. For twenty years he was one of the ablest members of the old Crook School Board, and he also served six years as a member of the Auckland Guardians. He was a member of the Urban Council for six years. On the School Board, Board of Guardians, and Urban Council, he served as chairman and vice-chairman, being elected unanimously on each occasion. He left Crook in 1904 to take up the position of Clerk to the Education Committee at Sedgefield. This position he still retains. His residence is at Norton.

**Mr. Edward Milburn,** president in 1903 and 1904, is one of the best-known men in the county. He held many important offices in the district, including the clerkships to the old Parish Council, the Urban Council, Burial Board, Bedburn Parish Council, Tow Law Parish Council, etc. As a member of the Masonic Order, few

can equal his knowledge of the rites and working of the historic Freemasonry movement, in which, locally, he has held the highest offices. But, perhaps, Mr. Milburn, who now resides at Tow Law, is best remembered by his efforts as a singer. As a baritone, he, when in his prime, could not be equalled in the Northern Counties. He was choirmaster at the Crook Parish Church for a great number of years, during which time the choir maintained a high standard of proficiency. Mr. Milburn also had a long and useful career in the Cricket field. While officially connected with the Society, his work in its interests was marked by much ability.

**Mr. Ralph Walton,** president in 1909, was a well-known official in connection with the company of Pease and Partners Limited. He never courted much public life, but was, nevertheless, one of the best-known and respected men in the district, due largely to his long service as a science teacher in connection with the evening classes. In the course of his teaching career many hundreds of pupils passed through his hands ; and the success with which many of them have met is sufficient testimony to the excellence of the instruction that they received from him. His death in 1911 was extremely regretted.

**Mr. Robert Young,** president in 1908, 1912, and 1913, follows the vocation of keeker at Roddymoor Colliery. His chief public association has been the occupancy of the highest office in the Society, and he has been one of the most able and active of our line of presidents. He first became a member of the committee in 1892, and, since that time, he has been responsible for a large amount of work in the Society's interest. His ability has always met with unanimous recognition, and he has invariably been appointed to all the important subcommittees from time to time arranged. His general knowledge, allied with sound tactics, have always been marked traits, which have contributed in no mean degree to the success of the Society.

**Mr. Thomas Winter, J.P.,** was president in 1906, 1910, and 1911. He died in 1912, just as he was completing his term of office. Mr. Winter was very actively connected with the public life of Crook. As a miners' official he was entrusted with many important delegations, and was one of the Board of Examiners on Mining. He was a member of the old Parish Council, and, in later years, became a member of the Auckland Board of Guardians, being a past chairman and a member of all the important committees. He held many offices in the Wesleyan Church, and was an acceptable local preacher. In his later years he rendered yeoman service to the Labour Party, and was the chairman of the Barnard Castle Labour and Progressive Association.

The jubilee and present president is **Mr. William Jackson,** who is a horse-shoer, and resides at Waterhouses. We detract in no way from the excellence of previous occupants of the presidential chair when we state that he is one of the best and most able of all those who have been honoured by the members by appointment to the office of president. For one who has not had a long connection officially with the Society, he has made surprising headway in the affections and esteem of the members, employees, and his fellow officials alike. No one can deny his great sense of fairness. He spares no trouble that justice may triumph. A man gifted with keen powers of penetration, he gives a close hearing to all questions which are continually arising in the Society's affairs ; and his excellent reasoning and summing up never fail to carry the highest effect. Both in committee and at the general meetings his efforts as chairman have been carried out in a splendidly impartial manner, and it is safe to say he is one of the most popular presidents ever connected with our Society. At Waterhouses he is a big asset to the Wesleyan Church, and he is an appreciated local preacher.

Edward Lloyd (*Author of History*),
Accountant of Society. 24 Years' Service.

## AUDITORS.

1865.

August to December—THOMAS SWAN, JOSEPH JOPLING.

1866.

January to June—THOMAS SWAN, JOHN HALL.
July to December—THOMAS HESLOP, JOSEPH JACKSON.

1867.

January to June—THOMAS HESLOP, JOSEPH JACKSON.
July to December—THOMAS HESLOP, JOHN DAWSON.

1868.

January to June—THOMAS HESLOP, JOHN DAWSON, JOHN COATS.
July to December—THOMAS HESLOP, JOHN DAWSON.

1869.

January to June—THOMAS HESLOP, JOHN DAWSON.
July to December—THOMAS HESLOP, JOHN DAWSON.

1870.

January to June—JOHN DAWSON, JOHN COATS.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, JOHN COATS.

1871.

January to June—JOHN DAWSON, JOHN COATS.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, JOHN COATS.

1872.

January to June—JOHN DAWSON, THOMAS SWAN.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, THOMAS SWAN.

1873.

January to June—JOHN DAWSON, THOMAS SWAN.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, THOMAS SWAN.

1874.

January to June—JOHN DAWSON, THOMAS SWAN.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, THOMAS SWAN.

1875.

January to June—JOHN DAWSON, ISAAC BOWMAN.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.

1876.

January to June—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.

1877.

January to June—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.

AUDITORS—*Continued.*

1878.
January to June—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.

1879.
January to June—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.

1880.
January to June—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.

1881.
January to June—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.

1882.
January to June—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.

1883.
January to June—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.

1884.
January to June—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—JOHN DAWSON, HENRY STOKER.

1885.
January to June—JOHN SCOTT, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—JOHN SCOTT, HENRY STOKER.

1886.
January to June—JOHN SCOTT, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—THOMAS DOVER, HENRY STOKER.

1887.
January to June—THOMAS DOVER, HENRY STOKER.
July to December—THOMAS DOVER, AARON WHARTON.

1888.
January to June—THOMAS DOVER, AARON WHARTON.
July to December—JAMES YOUNG, AARON WHARTON.

1889.
January to June—AARON WHARTON, JAMES YOUNG.
July to December—HENRY STOKER, JAMES YOUNG.

1890.
January to June—HENRY STOKER, JAMES YOUNG.
July to December—HENRY STOKER, JOHN POTTS.

1891.
January to June—HENRY STOKER, JOHN POTTS.
July to December—JAMES YOUNG, JOHN POTTS.

AUDITORS—*Continued.*

1892.
January to June—JAMES YOUNG, AARON WHARTON.
July to December—JAMES YOUNG, WILLIAM PARKER.

1893.
January to June—JAMES YOUNG, WILLIAM PARKER.
July to December—JOHN POTTS, WILLIAM PARKER.

1894.
January to June—JOHN POTTS, WILLIAM PARKER.
July to December—JOHN POTTS, WILLIAM PARKER.

1895 to 1915.
W. ARTHUR SMITH, F.C.A., South Shields.

## COMMITTEES.

AUGUST, 1865, TO AUGUST, 1866.
Mr. WM. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. G. BATEY.
,, W. WILLOUGHBY.
,, JOHN ROBINSON.
,, WM. AIREY.
,, JOSEPH JACKSON.
,, WILLIAM HARRISON.
,, ISAAC WILSON.
Mr. T. PEARSON.
,, RD. WILKINSON.
,, JOSEPH BRIGGS.
,, THOMAS GROVES.
,, JOHN GILL.
,, JOHN HALL.
,, WM. ATKINSON.

AUGUST, 1866, TO AUGUST, 1867.
Mr. WM. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. J. COATES.
,, J. THISTLETHWAITE.
,, G. BATEY.
,, T. PEARSON.
,, J. BRIGGS.
,, JOHN QUICKMIRE.
,, W. WILLOUGHBY.
,, BENJAMIN COATES.
,, JOHN SIDDLE.
,, R. LONGSTAFF.
Mr. W. BURNIP, Sen.
,, T. PROUDFOOT.
,, J. DEWELL.
,, T. NATTRASS.
,, H. BOWES.
,, W. PINKNEY.
,, T. PEARSON.
,, T. SWAN.
,, W. HENDERSON.

AUGUST, 1867, TO AUGUST, 1868.
Mr. WM. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. JOHN COATES.
,, THOS. SWAN.
,, THOS. NATTRASS.
,, JOSEPH BRIGGS.
,, WM. MORTON.
,, J. ASHMAN.
Mr. ADAM SUDDICK.
,, E. BROUGHAM.
,, T. PEARSON.
,, G. BATEY.
,, HENRY BOWES.

COMMITTEES—*Continued.*

AUGUST, 1870, TO AUGUST, 1871.

Mr. WM. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. J. COATS.
,, R. FRYER.
,, W. WILLOUGHBY.
,, J. THISTLETHWAITE.
,, J. SMITH.
,, M. REED.
,, G. BATEY.
Mr. W. LOBLEY.
,, T. SWAN.
,, J. SWAN.
,, J. BRIGGS.
,, T. GROVES.
,, T. PEARSON.

AUGUST, 1871, TO AUGUST, 1872.

Mr. WM. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. T. GROVES.
,, JOHN COATS.
,, HENRY BOWES.
,, MCH. BURRELL.
,, WM. TAYLOR.
,, R. LONGSTAFF.
Mr. JOS. BRIGGS.
,, THOS. SWAN.
,, THOS. PEARSON.
,, ALEX. FRENCH.
,, JOHN HUTCHINSON.

AUGUST, 1872, TO AUGUST, 1873.

Mr. WM. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. THOS. SWAN.
,, THOS. ARMSTRONG.
,, W. FORSTER.
,, BEN. COATS.
,, W. TAYLOR.
,, J. HUTCHINSON.
Mr. H. BOWES.
,, THOS. PEARSON.
,, W. ROBINSON.
,, A. FRENCH.
,, W. HESLOP.

AUGUST, 1873, TO AUGUST, 1874.

Mr. WM. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. W. FOSTER.
,, B. COATS.
,, T. ARMSTRONG.
,, A. FRENCH.
,, T. SWAN.
,, MARK WILLEY.
Mr. W. ROBINSON.
,, W. HESLOP.
,, JNO. RACE.
,, T. WADDLE.
,, W. HUTCHINSON.

AUGUST, 1874, TO AUGUST, 1875.

Mr. WM. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. T. WADDLE.
,, T. SWAN.
,, M. WILLEY.
,, ISAAC BOWMAN.
,, J. RACE.
,, R. BRUNSKILL.
Mr. W. HUTCHINSON.
,, W. HETHERINGTON.
,, B. COATS.
,, A. FRENCH.
,, W. ROBINSON.
,, H. BOWES.

COMMITTEES—*Continued.*

AUGUST, 1875, TO AUGUST, 1876.
Mr. WM. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. ISAAC. BOWMAN.
,, W. ROBINSON.
,, A. FRENCH.
,, JOS. CLOSE.
,, JNO. RACE.
,, H. BOWES.
Mr. B. COATS.
,, W. HUTCHINSON.
,, W. HETHERINGTON.
,, W. BRUNSKILL.
,, T. WADDLE.
,, M. WILLEY.

AUGUST, 1876, TO AUGUST, 1877.
Mr. W. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. B. COATS.
,, W. HUTCHINSON.
,, T. WADDLE.
,, I. BOWMAN.
,, H. BOWES.
,, SIM. SIMPSON.
Mr. JOS. CLOSE.
,, JNO. RACE.
,, W. ROBINSON.
,, J. ROWLINSON.
,, W. ASKEW.
,, J. ADAMTHWAITE.

AUGUST, 1877, TO AUGUST, 1878.
Mr. W. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. W. ASKEW.
,, J. ADAMTHWAITE.
,, J. ROWLINSON.
,, T. WADDLE.
,, W. ROBINSON.
,, B. COATS.
Mr. H. BOWES.
,, JNO. SCOTT.
,, J. RACE.
,, I. BOWMAN.
,, W. TAYLOR.

AUGUST, 1878, TO AUGUST, 1879.
Mr. W. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. JNO. RACE.
,, B. COATS.
,, T. WADDLE.
,, JOHN SCOTT.
,, W. ASKEW.
,, I. BOWMAN.
Mr. W. ROBINSON.
,, JOSEPH PATTERSON.
,, H. BOWES.
,, J. DOWSON.
,, D. SCOTT.
,, W. TAYLOR.

AUGUST, 1879, TO AUGUST, 1880.
Mr. W. BLAND, *Chairman.*

Mr. W. ASKEW.
,, J. PATTERSON.
,, J. C. DOWSON.
,, W. ROBINSON.
,, J. RACE.
,, T. LIDDLE.
Mr. H. BOWES.
,, G. SAYERS.
,, B. COATS.
,, J. SCOTT.
,, M. WHARTON.

AUGUST, 1880, TO AUGUST, 1881.
Mr. JOSEPH PATTERSON, *Chairman.*

Mr. B. COATS.
,, W. ROBINSON.
,, J. C. DOWSON.
,, G. SAYERS.
,, W. BLAND.
,, M. WHARTON.
Mr. W. GREY.
,, T. LIDDLE.
,, J. RACE.
,, R. PAXTON.
,, W. BLAND.

COMMITTEES—*Continued.*

AUGUST, 1881, TO AUGUST, 1882.
Mr. HENRY BOWES, *Chairman.*

Mr. T. LIDDLE.
,, M. WHARTON.
,, R. PAXTON.
,, J. SCOTT.
,, J. RACE.
,, W. ROBINSON.
Mr. A. FLOWER.
,, W. ASKEW.
,, W. GREY.
,, G. KIRKBY.
,, B. COATS.

AUGUST, 1882, TO AUGUST, 1883.
Mr. HENRY BOWES, *Chairman.*

Mr. J. SCOTT.
,, B. COATS.
,, J. RACE.
,, A. FLOWER.
,, W. ROBINSON.
,, T. DOVER.
Mr. W. ASKEW.
,, T. CLARK.
,, R. PAXTON.
,, W. VIPOND.
,, T. LAMBERT.

AUGUST, 1883, TO AUGUST, 1884.
Mr. HENRY BOWES, *Chairman.*

Mr. T. CLARK.
,, T. DOVER.
,, W. HESLOP.
,, J. DACK.
,, W. GREY.
,, B. COATES.
Mr. J. RACE.
,, P. ROBINSON.
,, T. LAMBERT.
,, J. BLACKETT.
,, JAMES YOUNG.

AUGUST, 1884, TO AUGUST, 1885.
Mr. WM. HESLOP, *Chairman.*

Mr. J. DACK.
,, J. YOUNG.
,, J. BLACKETT.
,, A. FLOWER.
,, T. LAMBERT.
,, G. WARD.
Mr. P. ROBINSON.
,, T. ASHBRIDGE.
,, W. GREY.
,, J. PATTERSON.
,, T. BINNS.
,, JOSEPH MIDDLEMAS.

AUGUST, 1885, TO AUGUST, 1886.
Mr. WM. HESLOP, *President.*

Mr. THOS. ASHBRIDGE.
,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS.
,, JOHN RACE.
,, THOMAS DOVER.
,, JOSEPH PATTERSON.
,, GEORGE WARD.
Mr. MICHAEL DAVISON.
,, W. ELLIS.
,, GEORGE WATSON.
,, THOMAS BINNS.
,, ANTHONY FLOWER.

AUGUST, 1886, TO AUGUST, 1887.
Mr. THOMAS BINNS, *President.*

Mr. JOSEPH BOWES.
,, ERNEST FOSTER.
,, J. PATTERSON.
,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS.
,, J. RACE.
,, JOHN STEPHENSON.
Mr. T. ASHBRIDGE.
,, WM. GREY.
,, JOHN SCOTT.
,, G. WATSON.
,, J. TURNBULL.

COMMITTEES—*Continued.*

AUGUST, 1887, TO AUGUST, 1888.
Mr. JOHN SCOTT, *President.*

Mr. J. BOWES.
,, JOSEPH PEDELTY.
,, W. ELLIS.
,, T. LAMBERT.
,, M. DAVISON.
,, W. GREY.
Mr. T. M. GRAHAM.
,, D. PEARCE.
,, E. FOSTER.
,, J. TURNBULL.
,, J. STEPHENSON.

AUGUST, 1888, TO AUGUST, 1889.
Mr. THOMAS ASHBRIDGE, *President.*

Mr. T. M. GRAHAM.
,, T. LAMBERT.
,, D. PEARCE.
,, J. RACE.
,, J. HACKER.
,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS.
Mr. G. WARD.
,, J. MORRIS.
,, G. WATSON.
,, W. ELLIS.
,, M. DAVISON.

AUGUST, 1889, TO AUGUST, 1890.
Mr. T. ASHBRIDGE, *President.*

Mr. R. EMMERSON.
,, W. R. HESLOP.
,, J. RACE.
,, J. SCOTT.
,, G. E. WARD.
,, J. TURNBULL.
Mr. J. BOWES.
,, T. COWELL.
,, G. WATSON.
,, J. MIDDLEMAS.
,, J. MORRIS.

AUGUST, 1890, TO AUGUST, 1891.
Mr. JOHN SCOTT, *President.*

Mr. T. COWELL.
,, W. R. HESLOP.
,, J. BOWES.
,, R. EMMERSON.
,, T. LAMBERT.
,, T. DUNN.
Mr. JOHN GARDINER.
,, W. LONGSTAFF.
,, JOHN ROBINSON.
,, M. DAVISON.
,, J. TURNBULL.

AUGUST, 1891, TO AUGUST, 1892.
Mr. T. ASHBRIDGE, *President.*

Mr. JOHN ROBINSON.
,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS.
,, J. GARDNER.
,, T. W. HUGHES.
,, W. ELLIS.
,, J. RACE.
Mr. J. M. ALLISON.
,, T. LAMBERT.
,, M. DAVISON.
,, G. WATSON.
,, W. LONGSTAFF.

AUGUST, 1892, TO AUGUST, 1893.
Mr. T. ASHBRIDGE, *President.*

Mr. T. PEARSON.
,, T. W. HUGHES.
,, GEO. SMITH.
,, W. ELLIS.
,, W. R. HESLOP.
,, ROBERT ARMSTRONG.
Mr. J. TURNBULL.
,, J. RACE.
,, G. WATSON.
,, R. YOUNG.
,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS.

COMMITTEES—*Continued.*

AUGUST, 1893, TO AUGUST, 1894.
MR. THOMAS PEARSON, J.P., *President.*

Mr. W. LONGSTAFF.
,, G. SMITH.
,, J. T. RUDD.
,, T. LAMBERT.
,, W. R. HESLOP.
,, J. HUTHWAITE.
Mr. J. TURNBULL.
,, J. GARDINER.
,, JAS. LEONARD.
,, R. YOUNG.
,, ROB. ARMSTRONG.

AUGUST, 1894, TO AUGUST, 1895.
MR. GEORGE WATSON, *President.*

Mr. J. HUTHWAITE.
,, JOSEPH BOWES.
,, W. LONGSTAFF.
,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS.
,, JNO. RACE.
,, E. MILBURN.
Mr. HENRY JOHNSON.
,, J. GARDINER.
,, JAS. LEONARD.
,, J. T. RUDD.
,, T LAMBERT.

AUGUST, 1895, TO AUGUST, 1896.
MR. GEORGE WATSON, *President.*

Mr. J. BOWES.
,, E. MILBURN.
,, G. SMITH.
,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS.
,, P. FRATER.
,, HY. JOHNSON.
Mr. T. PEARSON.
,, W. R. HESLOP.
,, T. M. GRAHAM.
,, J. RACE.
,, J. TURNBULL.

AUGUST, 1896, TO AUGUST, 1897.
MR. WILLIAM R. HESLOP, *President.*

Mr. G. SMITH.
,, T. M. GRAHAM.
,, JOHN TURNBULL.
,, PETER FRATER.
,, THOS. PEARSON.
,, ROB. EMMERSON.
Mr. JOHN POTTS.
,, J. BEARDMORE JOBLING.
,, THOS. PARKER.
,, TOM AUTON.
,, ROBT. YOUNG.

AUGUST, 1897, TO AUGUST, 1898.
MR. TOM AUTON, *President.*

Mr. T. PARKER.
,, R. YOUNG.
,, GEO. SLEE.
,, J. B. JOBLING.
,, R. EMMERSON.
,, JOHN POTTS.
Mr. GEO. NELSON.
,, JOS. SHEVELS.
,, T. RAINE.
,, JAS. WILKINSON.
,, THOS. WINTER.

AUGUST, 1898, TO AUGUST, 1899.
MR. JAMES WILKINSON, *President.*

Mr. T. RAINE.
,, G. NELSON.
,, G. SLEE.
,, J. SHEVELS.
,, W. ENGLISH.
,, JNO. STEPHENSON.
Mr. S. TROMAN.
,, T. WINTER.
,, C. THOMAS.
,, JNO. MADDISON.
,, J. WHITE.

COMMITTEES—*Continued.*

AUGUST, 1899, TO AUGUST, 1900.
Mr. JOHN WHITE, *President.*

Mr. W. ENGLISH.
,, C. THOMAS.
,, S. TROMAN.
,, J. KEOGAN.
,, J. STEPHENSON.
,, JAS. DACK.
Mr. J. MADDISON.
,, J. T. RUDD.
,, JONT. THOMPSON.
,, WM. BETTON.
,, JNO. HARVEY.

AUGUST, 1900, TO AUGUST, 1901.
Mr. GEORGE WATSON, *President.*

Mr. J. HARVEY.
,, J. DACK.
,, J. KEOGAN.
,, WM. BETTON.
,, J. THOMPSON.
,, J. T. RUDD.
Mr. J. RACE.
,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS.
,, W. MUSGRAVE.
,, WM. PORTEUS.
,, HY. JOHNSON.

AUGUST, 1901, TO AUGUST, 1902.
Mr. G. WATSON, *President.*

Mr. JAS. LEONARD.
,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS.
,, W. MUSGRAVE.
,, JNO. RACE.
,, WM. FELL.
,, W. PORTEUS.
Mr. P. FRATER.
,, T. J. WILSON.
,, GEO. SMITH.
,, H. JOHNSON.
,, T. PEARSON.

AUGUST, 1902, TO AUGUST, 1903.
Mr. JAMES LEONARD, J.P., *President.*

Mr. T. PEARSON.
,, P. FRATER.
,, G. SMITH.
,, W. FELL.
,, J. FITZPATRICK.
,, J. COLLINSON.
Mr. C. NORWOOD.
,, T. AUTON.
,, R. YOUNG.
,, T. J. WILSON.
,, R. EMMERSON.

AUGUST, 1903, TO AUGUST, 1904.
Mr. EDWARD MILBURN, *President.*

Mr. J. COLLINSON.
,, J. JOBLING.
,, C. NORWOOD.
,, RALPH WALTON.
,, JOHN MIDDLEMAS.
,, T. AUTON.
Mr. R. YOUNG.
,, JOS. ROBINSON.
,, GEO. MOORE.
,, R. EMMERSON.
,, J. FITZPATRICK.

AUGUST, 1904, TO AUGUST, 1905.
Mr. EDWARD MILBURN, *President.*

Mr. JOSEPH BOWES.
,, J. JOBLING.
,, J. PARKER.
,, G. MOORE.
,, S. TROMAN.
,, C. THOMAS.
Mr. JOHN MIDDLEMAS.
,, W. R. HESLOP.
,, JOS. ROBINSON.
,, ROBT. BELL.
,, RALPH WALTON.

COMMITTEES—*Continued.*

AUGUST, 1905, TO AUGUST, 1906.
Mr. WM. R. HESLOP, *President.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. J. BOWES. | Mr. S. TROMAN. |
| ,, J. STEPHENSON. | ,, C. THOMAS. |
| ,, J. PARKER. | ,, T. WINTER. |
| ,, WM. COLLIER. | ,, J. ROBINSON. |
| ,, THOMAS BELL. | ,, R. BELL. |
| ,, T. M. GRAHAM. | |

AUGUST, 1906, TO AUGUST, 1907.
Mr. THOMAS WINTER, *President.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. T. PEARSON. | Mr. T. M. GRAHAM. |
| ,, J. STEPHENSON. | ,, T. BELL. |
| ,, T. HILL. | ,, G. WATSON. |
| ,, W. COLLIER. | ,, T. ROBINSON. |
| ,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS. | ,, W. MUSGRAVE. |
| ,, JOHN RACE. | |

AUGUST, 1907, TO AUGUST, 1908.
Mr. GEORGE WATSON, *President.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. T. PEARSON. | Mr. JNO. JOBSON. |
| ,, J. SILLETT. | ,, G. HARDY. |
| ,, J. COLLINSON. | ,, JNO. H. MAWSON. |
| ,, W. MUSGRAVE. | ,, R. YOUNG. |
| ,, G. SMITH. | ,, JNO. RACE. |
| ,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS. | |

AUGUST, 1908, TO AUGUST, 1909.
Mr. ROBERT YOUNG, *President.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. R. WALTON. | Mr. J. COLLINSON. |
| ,, J. SILLETT. | ,, G. SMITH. |
| ,, R. EMMERSON. | ,, J. JOBSON. |
| ,, R. HOOK. | ,, G. HARDY. |
| ,, G. MOORE. | ,, J. MAWSON. |
| ,, J. GARDINER. | |

AUGUST, 1909, TO AUGUST, 1910.
Mr. RALPH WALTON, *President.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. J. SILLETT. | Mr. J. GARDINER. |
| ,, W. JACKSON. | ,, PATRICK LEONARD. |
| ,, ROB. BELL. | ,, T. DEIGHTON. |
| ,, R. HOOK. | ,, T. J. WILSON. |
| ,, G. MOORE. | ,, HENRY MIDDLEMAS. |
| ,, R. EMMERSON. | |

AUGUST, 1910, TO AUGUST, 1911.
Mr. THOMAS WINTER, *President.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. W. JACKSON. | Mr. S. A. MEDDICK. |
| ,, R. BELL. | ,, VICKERS BELL. |
| ,, H. MIDDLEMAS. | ,, T. F. ROBINSON. |
| ,, P. LEONARD. | ,, G. ARMSTRONG. |
| ,, T. J. WILSON. | ,, W. COLLIER. |
| ,, T. DEIGHTON. | |

COMMITTEES—*Continued.*

AUGUST, 1911, TO AUGUST, 1912.

Mr. THOMAS WINTER, J.P., *President.*

Mr. T. PEARSON.
,, JOS. MIDDLEMAS.
,, JOSEPH WINTER.
,, T. ELLISON.
,, JNO. RACE.
,, G. ARMSTRONG.
Mr. W. COLLIER.
,, V. BELL.
,, S. A. MEDDICK.
,, T. F. ROBINSON.
,, E. ROBSON.

AUGUST, 1912, TO AUGUST, 1913.

Mr. ROBERT YOUNG, *President.*

Mr. T. PEARSON.
,, J. WINTER.
,, J. MIDDLEMAS.
,, W. MUSGRAVE.
,, J. E. GILLILAND.
,, R. HANNANT.
Mr. RICHARD DAWSON.
,, E. ROBSON.
,, F. E. RUDKIN.
,, T. ELLISON.
,, J. RACE.

AUGUST, 1913, TO AUGUST, 1914.

Mr. ROBERT YOUNG, *President.*

Mr. J. SILLETT.
,, JOHN HENERY.
,, G. SMITH.
,, W. MUSGRAVE.
,, F. E. RUDKIN.
,, R. HANNANT.
Mr. RD. DAWSON.
,, EMM. DAWSON.
,, JOHN ARMSTRONG.
,, ANTH. BURNIP.
,, J. E. GILLILAND.

AUGUST, 1914, TO AUGUST, 1915.

Mr. WILLIAM JACKSON, *President.*

Mr. J. SILLETT.
,, J. HENERY.
,, G. SMITH.
,, JOHN T. AINSLEY.
,, G. W. DENT.
,, RALPH CAYGILL.
Mr. ROBERT RYLE.
,, A. BURNIP.
,, E. DAWSON.
,, J. ARMSTRONG.
,, JOS. ROBINSON.

AUGUST, 1915.

Mr. WILLIAM JACKSON, *President.*

Mr. ROB. RYLE
,, G. W DENT.
,, JNO. STEPHENSON.
,, JAS. FITZPATRICK.
,, R. CAYGILL.
,, SAMUEL CANDLER.
Mr. JOS. ROBINSON.
,, J. T. AINSLEY.
,, A. PINNINGTON.
,, G. ARMSTRONG, J.P
,, R. B. WETHERALD.

# ABSTRACT OF THE SOCIETY'S PROGRESS.

| Year ending. | Capital. | Sales. | Nett Profits. | Average Dividend. | No. of Members. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | s. d. | |
| June, 1866 .. | 201 | 4442 | 256 | 1 7½ | 130 |
| ,, 1867 .. | 288 | 8895 | 498 | 1 4 | 220 |
| ,, 1868 .. | 486 | 9899 | 595 | 1 5 | 273 |
| ,, 1869 .. | 706 | 10171 | 758 | 1 7½ | 306 |
| ,, 1870 .. | 1097 | 13688 | 971 | 1 7½ | 420 |
| ,, 1871 .. | 1720 | 21212 | 1877 | 1 11 | 586 |
| ,, 1872 .. | 2754 | 30836 | 2680 | 1 10½ | 746 |
| ,, 1873 .. | 4962 | 41920 | 3855 | 2 0 | 1000 |
| ,, 1874 .. | 9395 | 60987 | 6409 | 2 3 | 1350 |
| ,, 1875 .. | 13223 | 70638 | 7321 | 2 3 | 1674 |
| ,, 1876 .. | 16192 | 83950 | 9332 | 2 4 | 1988 |
| ,, 1877 .. | 16732 | 93026 | 10081 | 2 4 | 2038 |
| ,, 1878 .. | 16247 | 87771 | 9652 | 2 3½ | 1881 |
| ,, 1879 .. | 14187 | 73035 | 7462 | 2 2 | 1813 |
| ,, 1880 .. | 15537 | 81961 | 8944 | 2 3½ | 2023 |
| ,, 1881 .. | 20440 | 113266 | 12818 | 2 4½ | 2510 |
| ,, 1882 .. | 23974 | 123852 | 14026 | 2 4 | 2645 |
| ,, 1883 .. | 28749 | 136701 | 16826 | 2 5 | 3007 |
| ,, 1884 .. | 30765 | 145578 | 20311 | 2 8½ | 3282 |
| ,, 1885 .. | 37691 | 148077 | 22222 | 2 11 | 3510 |
| ,, 1886 .. | 41585 | 149469 | 23092 | 3 0 | 3690 |
| ,, 1887 .. | 45130 | 154782 | 23955 | 3 0 | 3817 |
| ,, 1888 .. | 50559 | 167487 | 24908 | 2 11 | 3928 |
| ,, 1889 .. | 53762 | 176258 | 26911 | 3 0 | 4026 |
| ,, 1890 .. | 65036 | 200734 | 30963 | 3 0 | 4188 |
| ,, 1891 .. | 80165 | 233263 | 36960 | 3 1 | 4385 |
| ,, 1892 .. | 75801 | 216835 | 33031 | 3 0½ | 4539 |
| ,, 1893 .. | 83212 | 211660 | 32636 | 3 0½ | 4735 |
| ,, 1894 .. | 89961 | 213894 | 35133 | 3 2½ | 4848 |
| ,, 1895 .. | 95929 | 208595 | 37053 | 3 4½ | 4902 |
| ,, 1896 .. | 101432 | 200591 | 34679 | 3 4½ | 4960 |
| ,, 1897 .. | 107397 | 207922 | 35865 | 3 5 | 5050 |
| ,, 1898 .. | 112297 | 219196 | 37610 | 3 5 | 5127 |
| ,, 1899 .. | 123170 | 228240 | 40464 | 3 6 | 5213 |
| ,, 1900 .. | 135512 | 243817 | 42727 | 3 5½ | 5316 |
| ,, 1901 .. | 154605 | 258311 | 47101 | 3 7 | 5442 |
| ,, 1902 .. | 166386 | 259898 | 44534 | 3 5 | 5552 |
| ,, 1903 .. | 167915 | 250391 | 44943 | 3 6 | 5653 |
| ,, 1904 .. | 167759 | 236835 | 42516 | 3 6½ | 5714 |
| ,, 1905 .. | 159403 | 215111 | 35996 | 3 4 | 5628 |
| ,, 1906 .. | 152124 | 219458 | 35626 | 3 3 | 4782 |
| ,, 1907 .. | 149674 | 194702 | 34238 | 3 5 | 4722 |
| ,, 1908 .. | 160874 | 224684 | 40722 | 3 7 | 4812 |
| ,, 1909 .. | 162940 | 226865 | 38775 | 3 4½ | 4823 |
| ,, 1910 .. | 151176 | 199633 | 32384 | 3 2½ | 4781 |
| ,, 1911 .. | 143714 | 188678 | 30281 | 3 2½ | 4742 |
| ,, 1912 .. | 138638 | 175637 | 29435 | 3 3 | 4703 |
| ,, 1913 .. | 140952 | 181814 | 28385 | 3 1 | 4752 |
| ,, 1914 .. | 146323 | 186057 | 32481 | 3 5 | 4846 |
| ,, 1915 .. | 149118 | 195233 | 27823 | 2 9½ | 5025 |

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